FAIRY TAIL

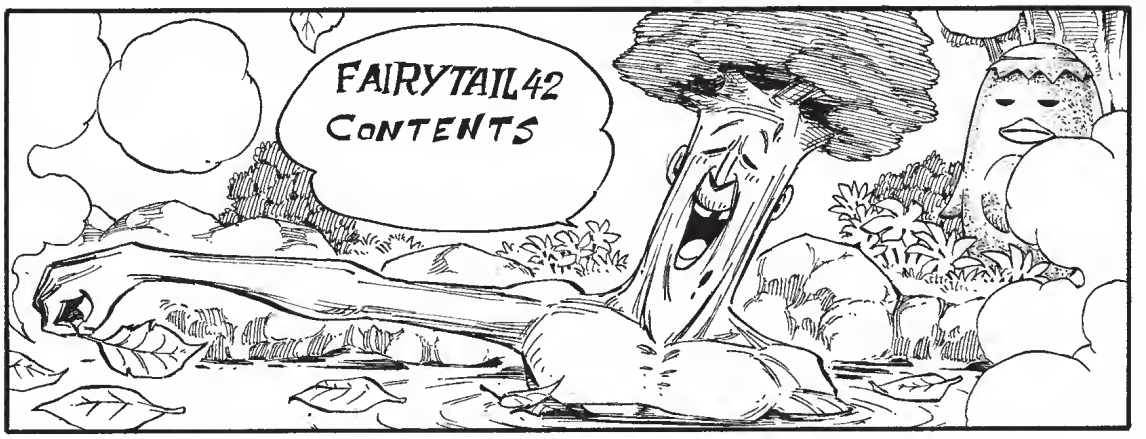
42

Hiro Mashima

FAIRY TAIL

42

HIRO MASHIMA



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FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 354: Kyôka

LAMIA SCALE

Name: Toby Horhorta **Age:** 25

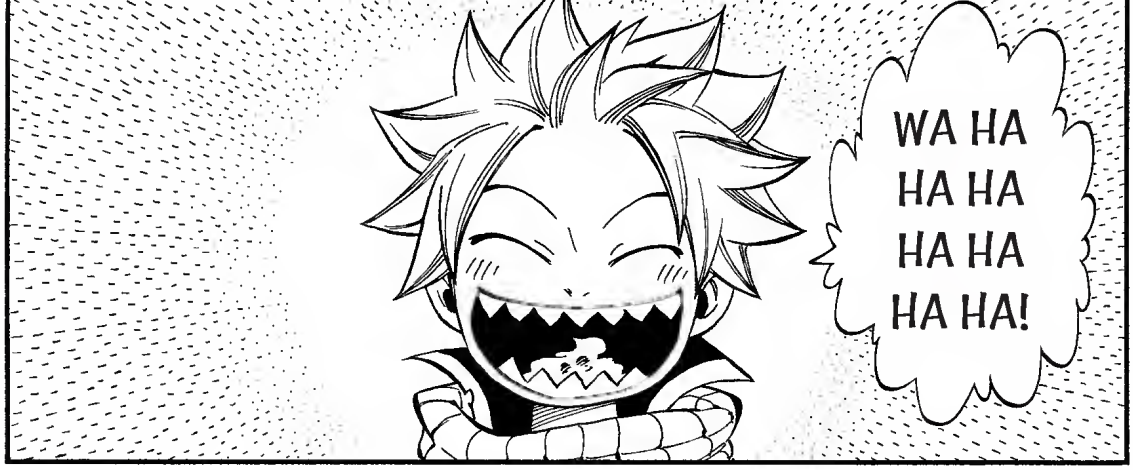
Magic:
Paralyzing Claws of the Mega-Jellyfish

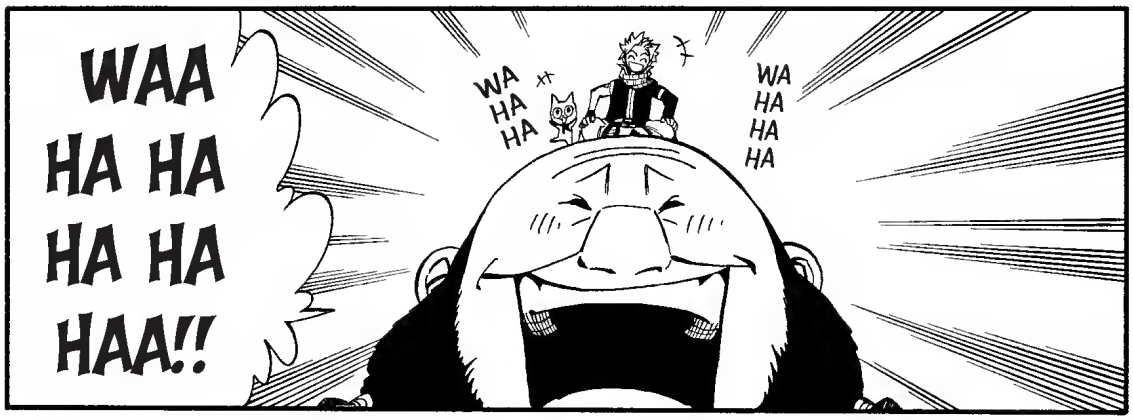
Likes: Sashimi **Dislikes:** Socks

Remarks

Normally, he seems rather cheerful, but he has a history of suddenly getting angry for no good reason. Still, he is one of the more capable wizards in Lamia, helping lead the guild to second place in last year's Grand Magic Games even though Lyon and Jura did not take part.

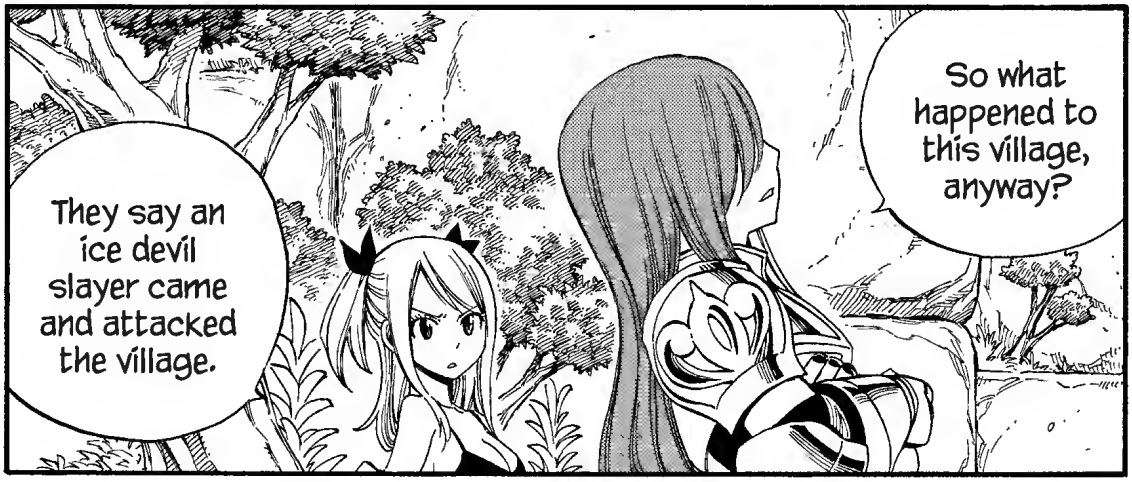
He spent three months looking for a lost sock only to have it torn apart by Kurohebi of Raven Tail during a match in the Games. After that, they say he soon lost his other sock.


WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

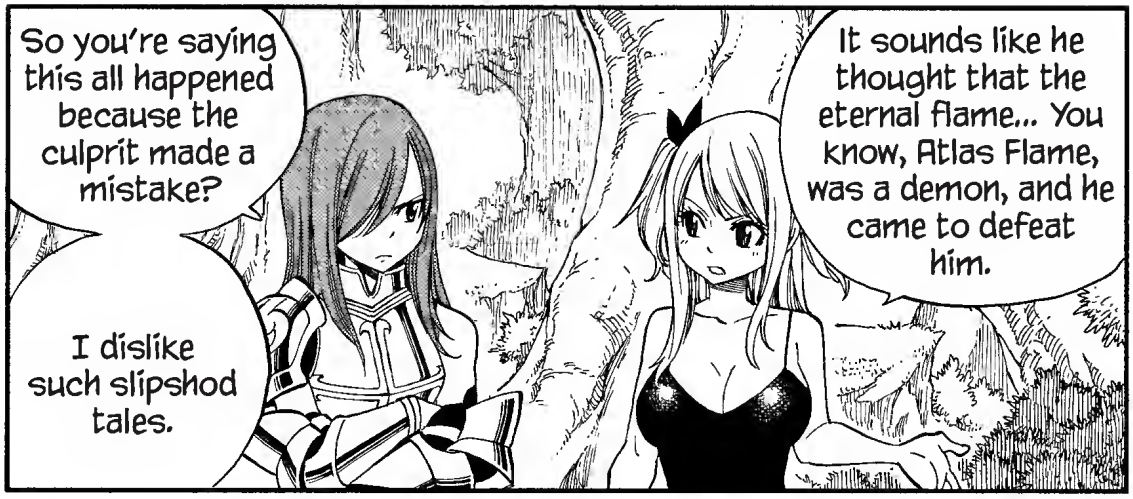

WAA HA HA HA HA HAA!!
WA HA HA
WA HA HA HA

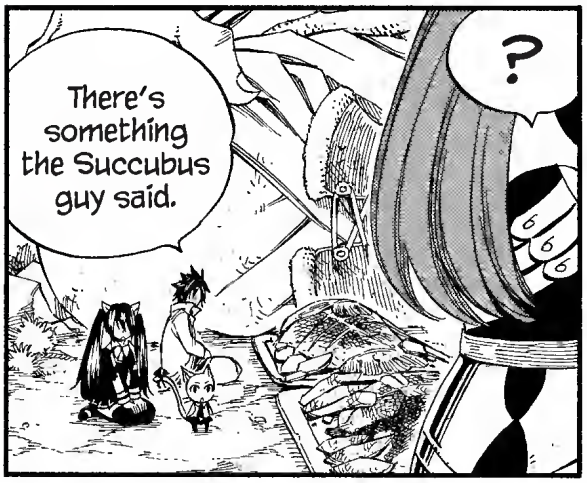
WA HA HA HA HA HA!
WA HA HA HA
They're good friends already...

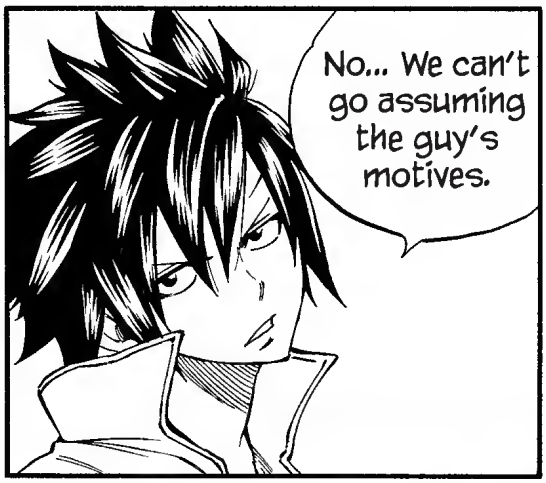
Our saviors sure are tiny little guys!
We're happy you're back to normal.
"Little guys?"
And even among "little guys," you're on the small side, Wendy.
WA HA HA HA HA!

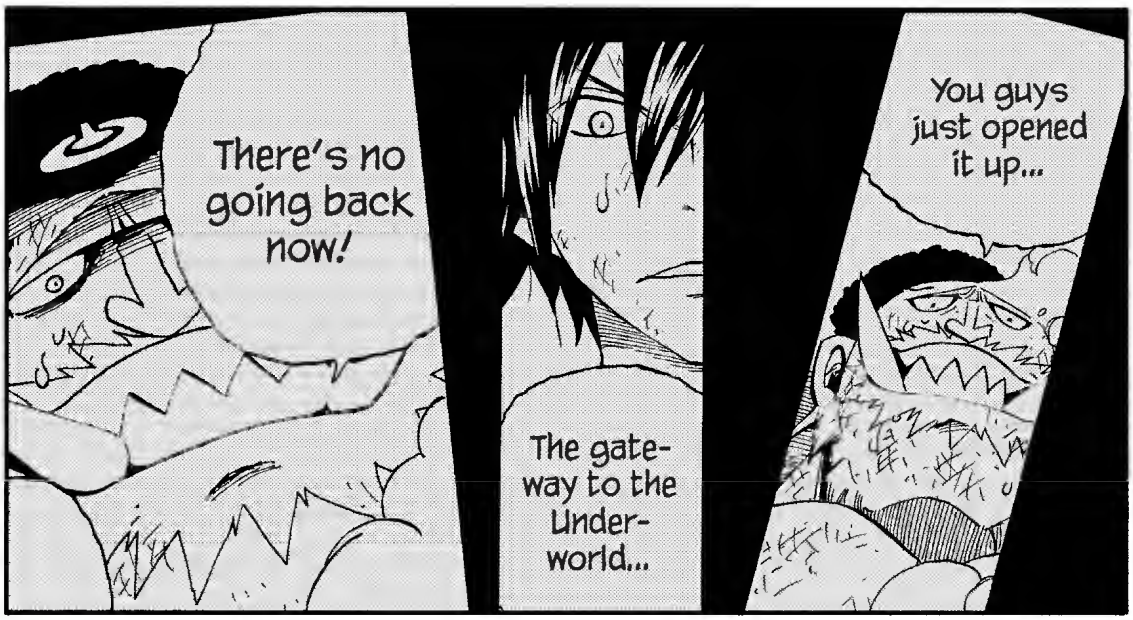

So what happened to this village, anyway?
They say an ice devil slayer came and attacked the village.

We got our weapons and tried to face him, but...
After that, we don't remember anything.
Yeah...

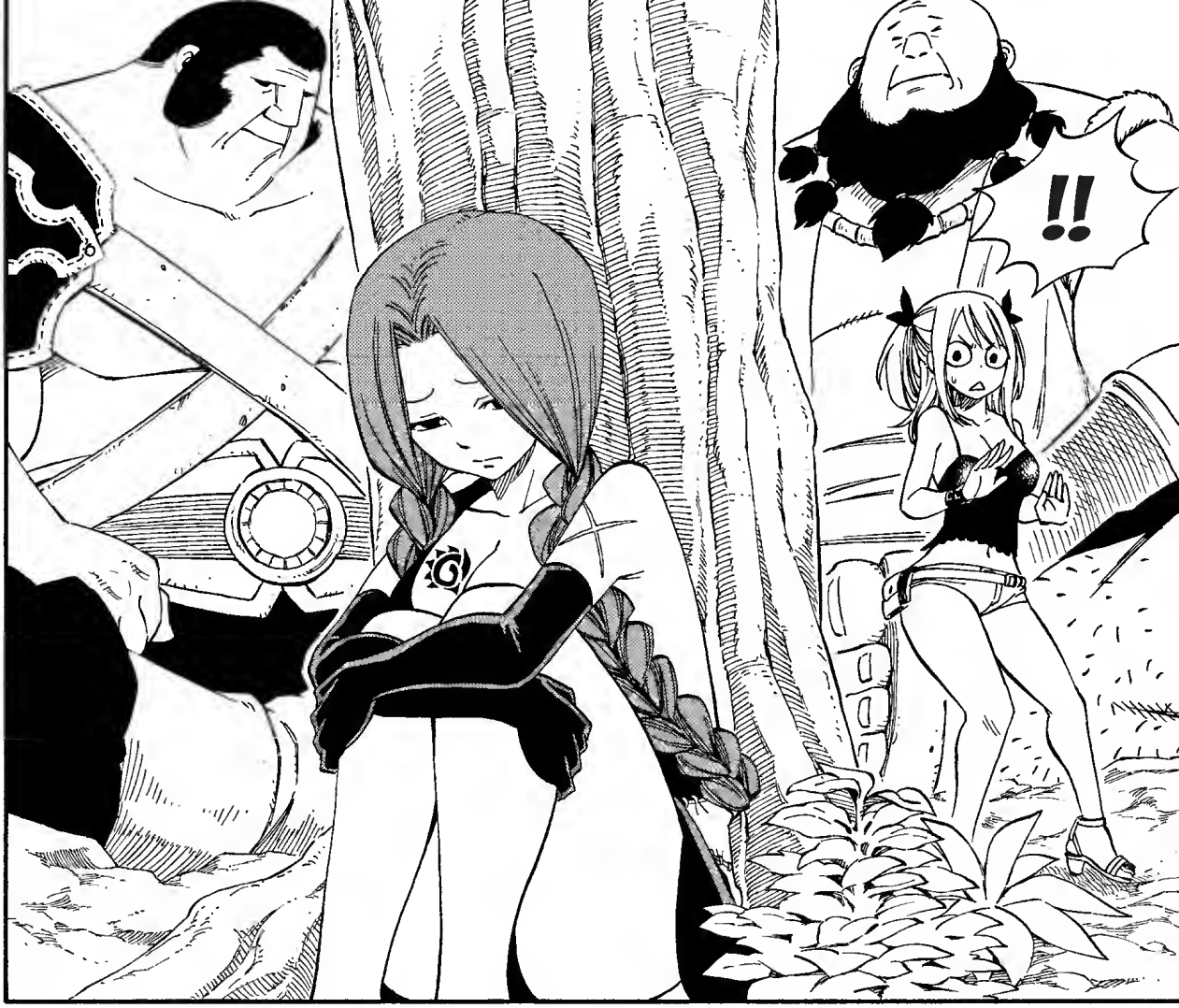

So you're saying this all happened because the culprit made a mistake?
I dislike such slipshod tales.
It sounds like he thought that the eternal flame... You know, Atlas Flame, was a demon, and he came to defeat him.


There's something the Succubus guy said.
?


No... We can't go assuming the guy's motives.


There's no going back now!
The gate-way to the Under-world...
You guys just opened it up...

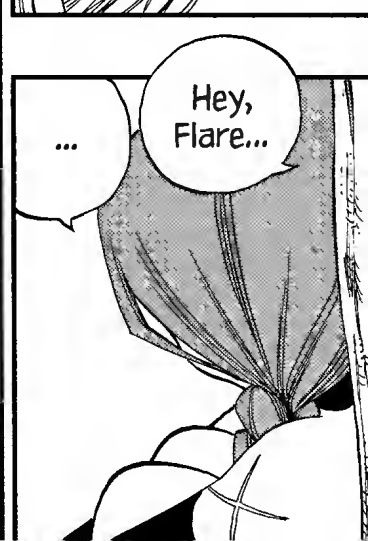
Members from one of its subordinate guilds, Succubus Eye, were placed here on guard duty.
I'll bet the wizard behind it belongs to Tartaros.
Eee!!
So, *Tartaros* ?!!
Aye, sir!
Yeah... But anyway, we got the job done!
Maybe... It feels like there's ***something else*** behind the attack.
Are you saying that there was some other reason to freeze the village?
?
Come to think of it, where's Flare?
!

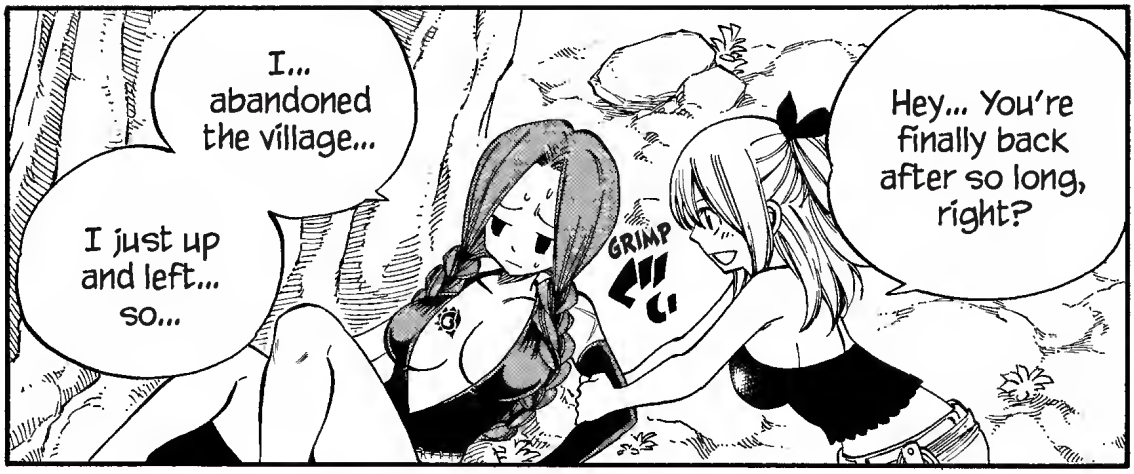

!!

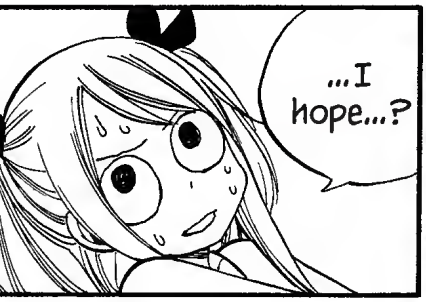
Are you there?!
...

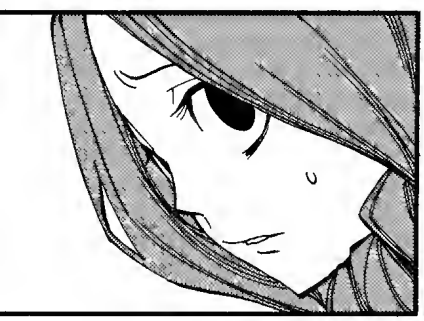
Did you say Flare?!
MURMUR
SHUMP
UWAHH!
AAAA !!

What are you hiding for?

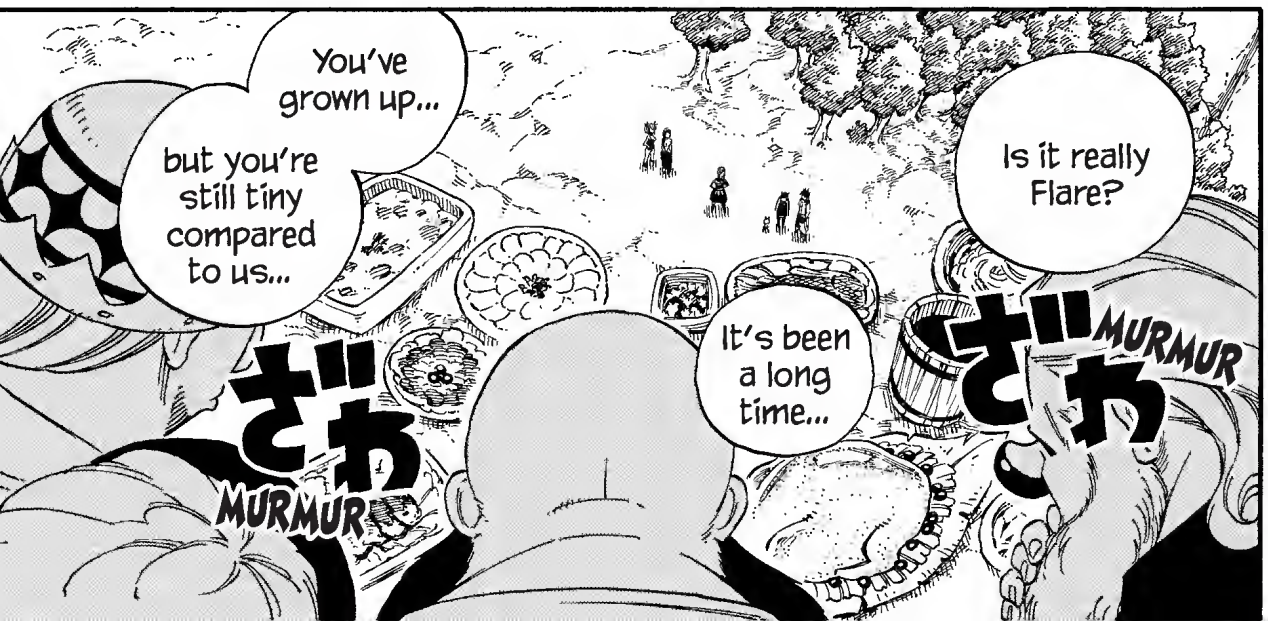

...
Hey, Flare...

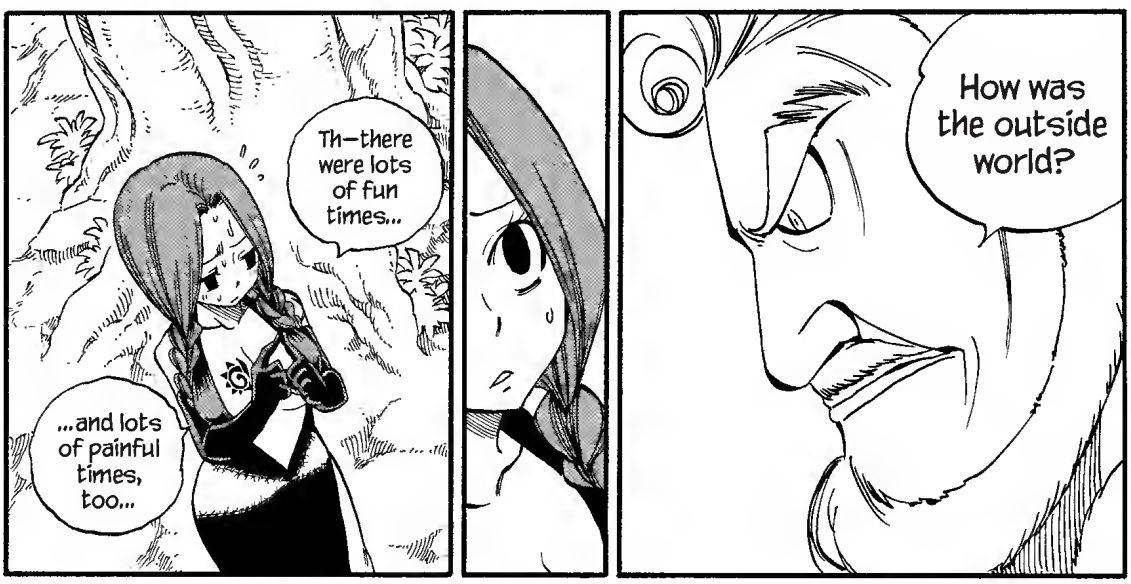

I... abandoned the village...
I just up and left... so...
GRIMP
Hey... You're finally back after so long, right?

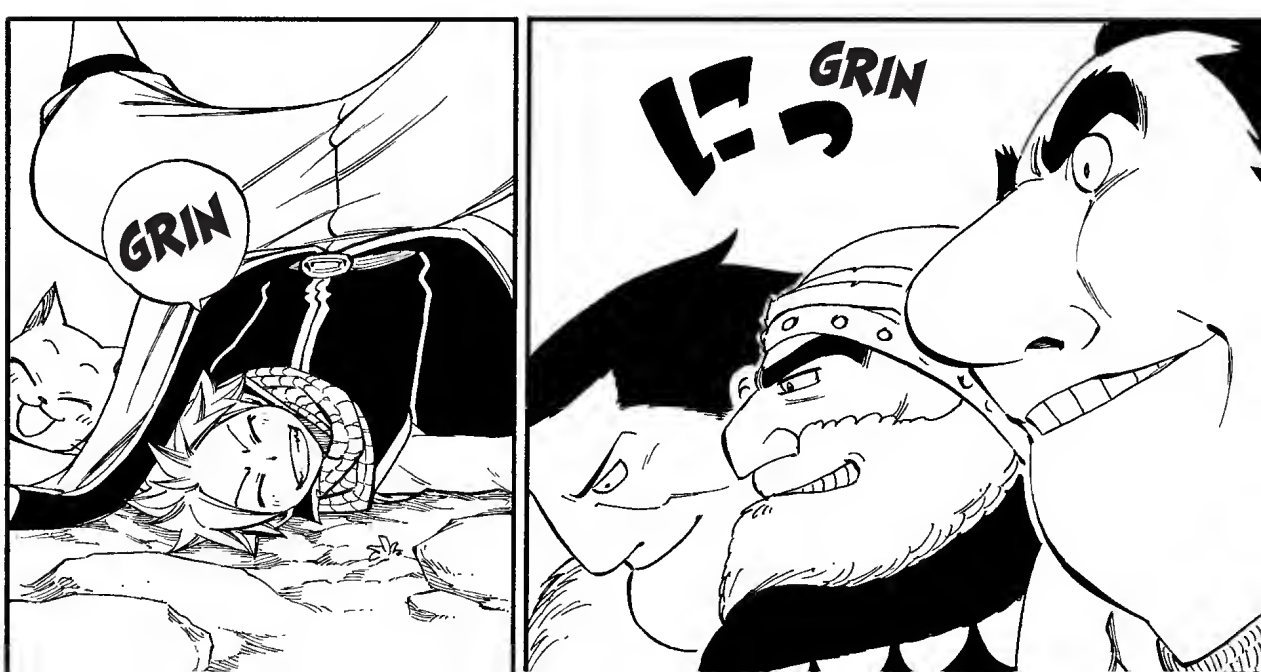

...I hope...?



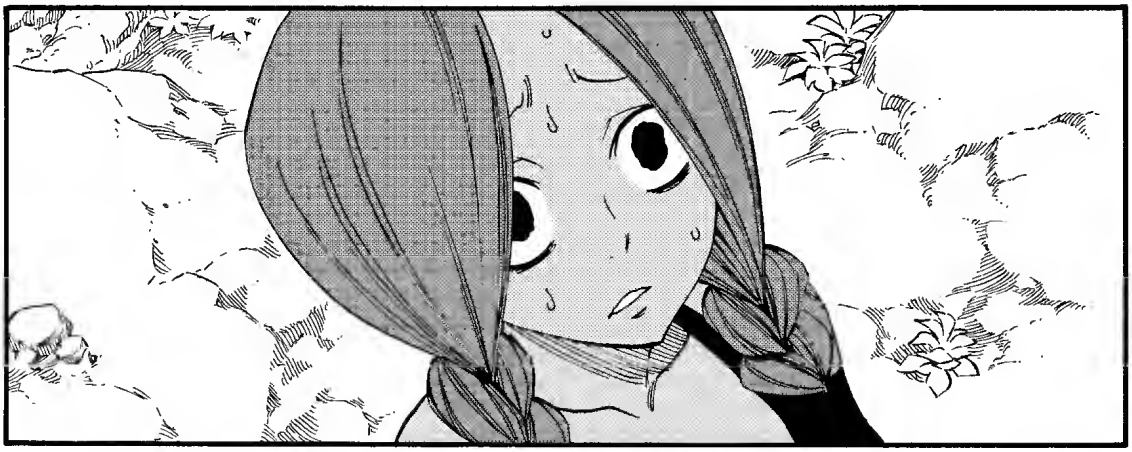
It's all right! Nobody is angry about it...


You've grown up...
but you're still tiny compared to us...
ざわ
MURMUR
It's been a long time...
Is it really Flare?
ざわ
MURMUR


Th—there were lots of fun times...
...and lots of painful times, too...
How was the outside world?


GRIN
にっ GRIN

You'll find that anywhere.
As long as you live.

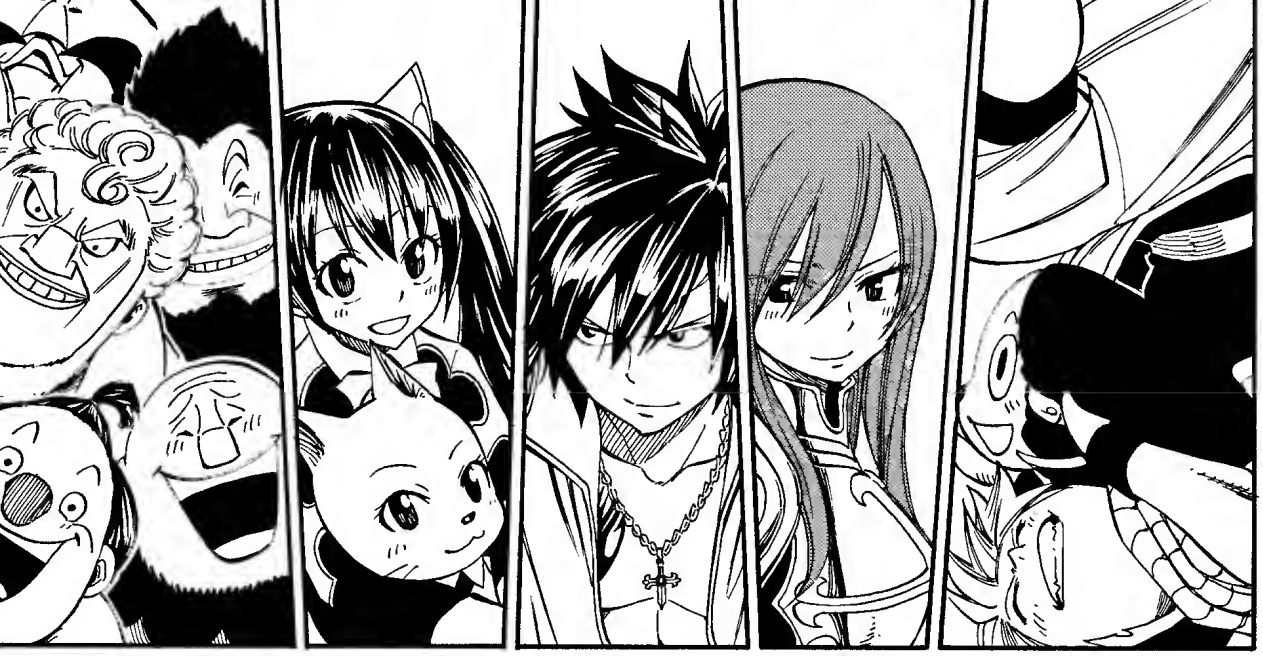


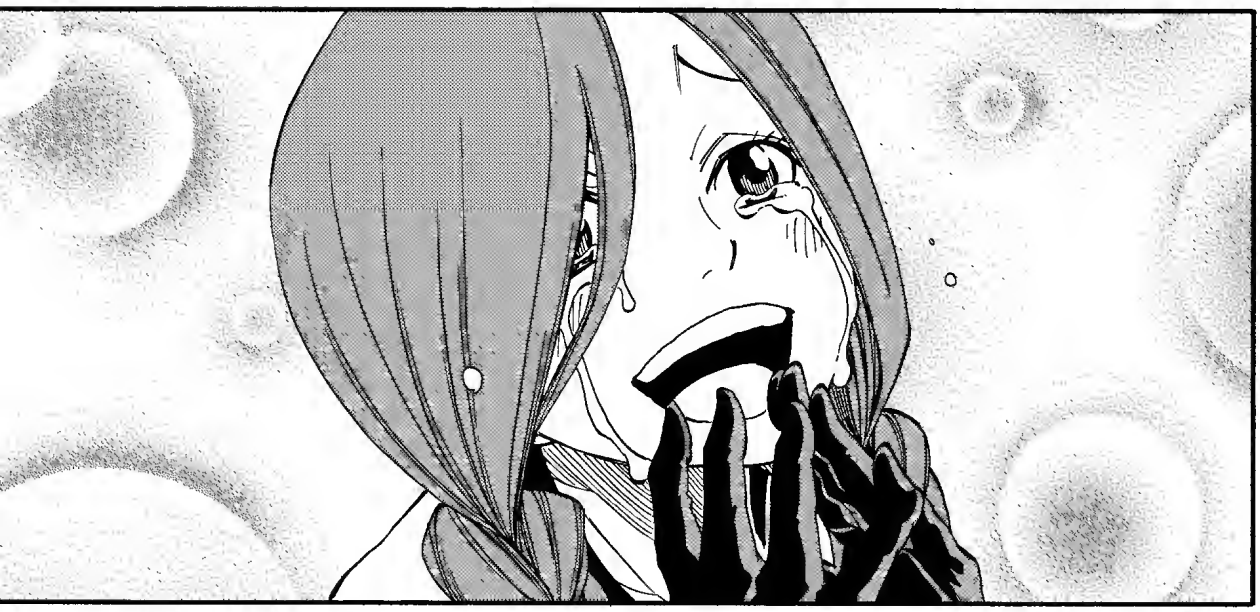
Well... Anyway. There's something we need to say to you.

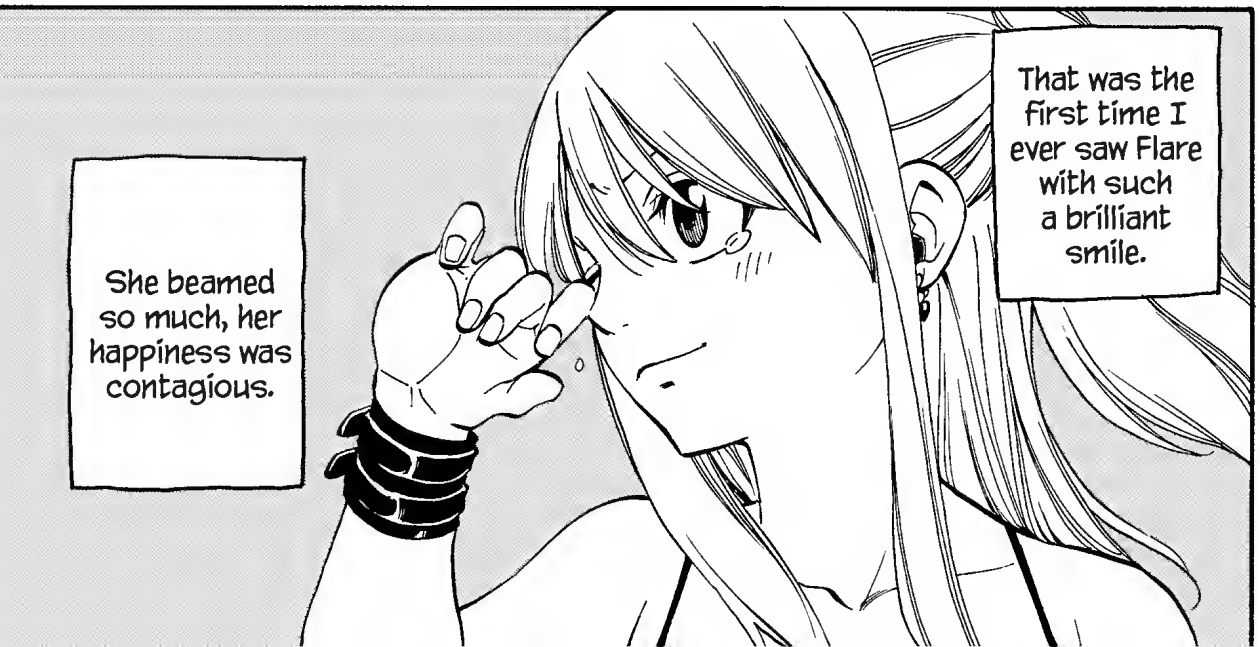
Yes.
You're free to come and go as you please.
Whether you're here or not... this is your home.

Welcome back, our dear daughter!

I'm...
I'm home...






That was the first time I ever saw Flare with such a brilliant smile.
She beamed so much, her happiness was contagious.

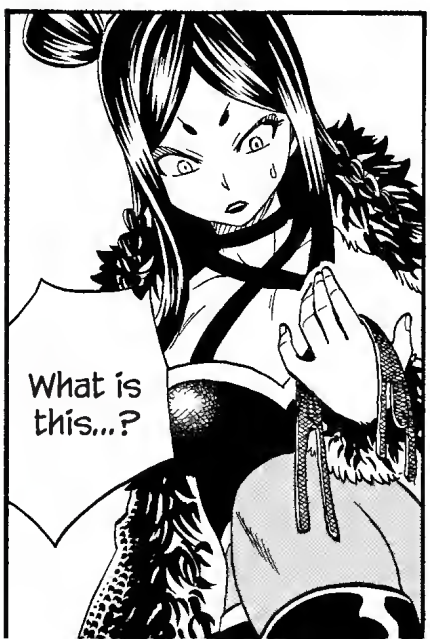
That evening, we sang, drank, and partied with the giants until the sun came up.
It was so fun, we forgot about the ominous words we'd heard that day.

Devil slayer... Demon from the Book of Zeref...
Succubus Eye...
Minerva...

...and Tartaros...

SUCCUBUS EYE GUILD HALL
Wh— what in...
... in the world...

ガラ
KLANNG

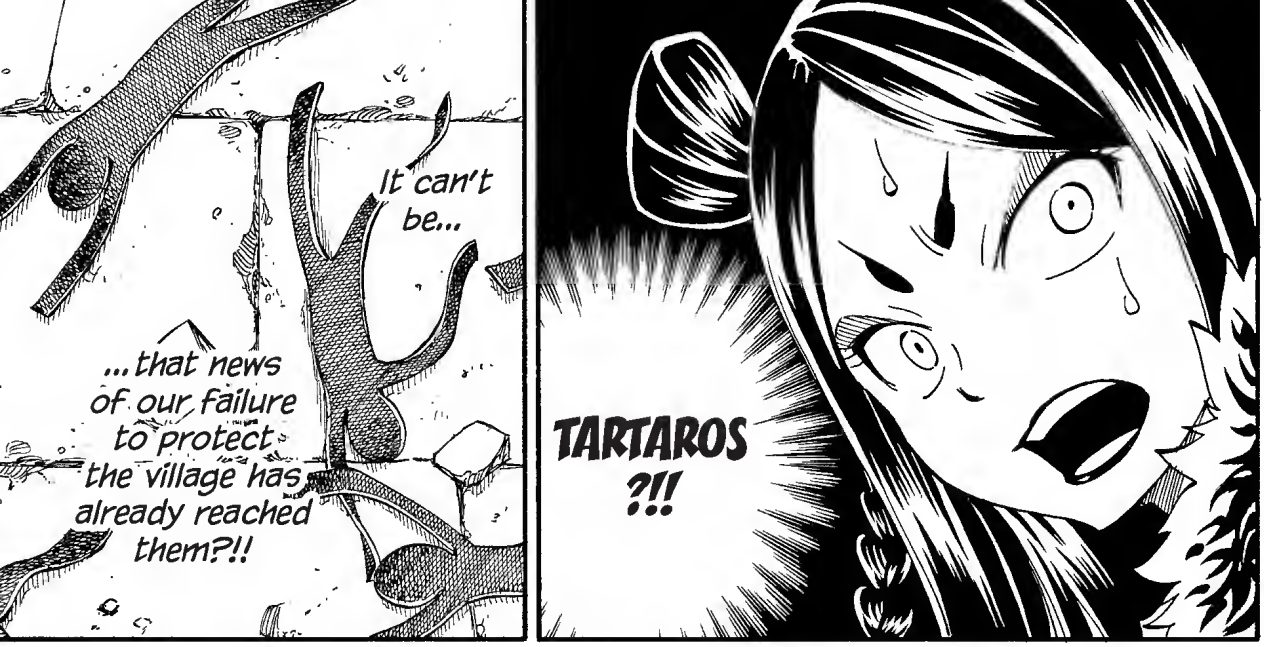

What is this...?

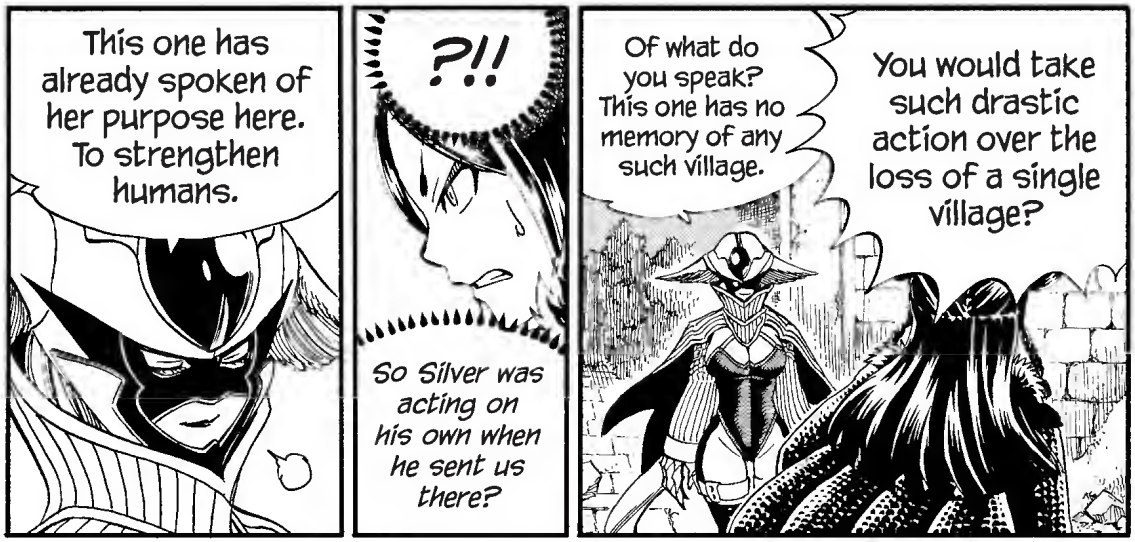
!

Wh—what happened here?!
Where... did everyone go...

Human.
KAK
Who are you ?!!
This one's magic makes humans stronger.
KAK
Human ...?
The weaklings... become *that.*
But... not all are worthy.

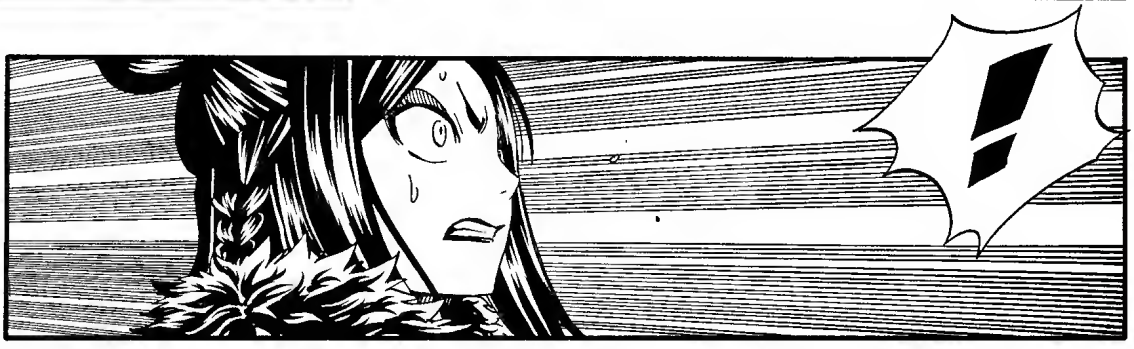
RUUUMMBLE
This one is Kyôka.
One of the Nine Demon Gates of Tartaros.
KAK
KAK
DEMON GATE OF TARTAROS
GODDESS OF THE SLAVE PLANET
KYÔKA

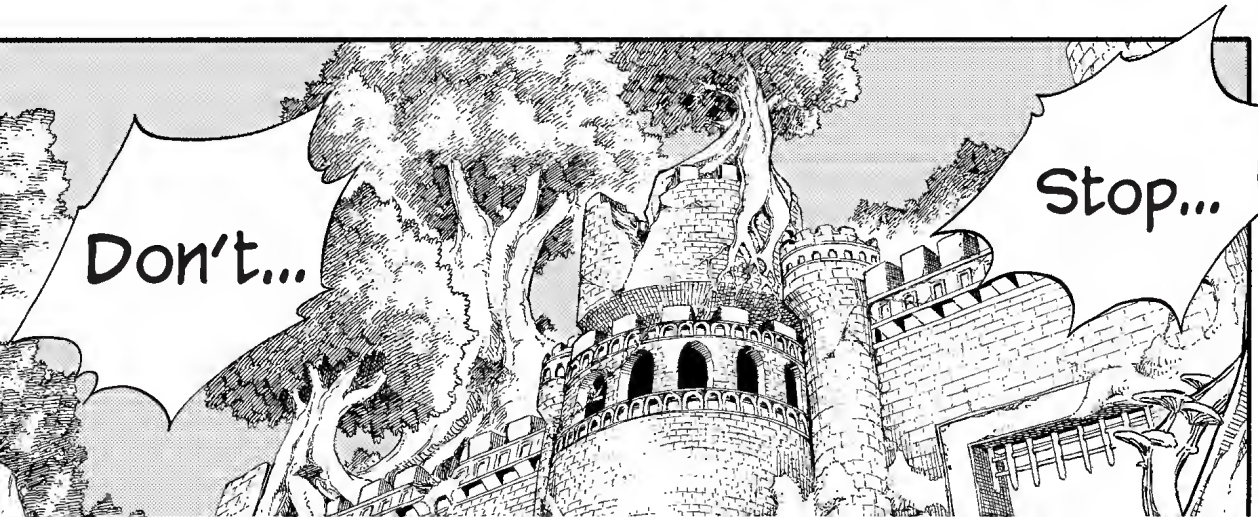

It can't be...
...that news of our failure to protect the village has already reached them?!!
TARTAROS ?!!


This one has already spoken of her purpose here. To strengthen humans.
?!!
So Silver was acting on his own when he sent us there?
Of what do you speak? This one has no memory of any such village.
You would take such drastic action over the loss of a single village?

Those unsuitable for strengthening are of no value to us.
These wizards should have been your soldiers... What fool does that to her own troops?!
This one is here under the master's orders to muster our forces.
In the coming days... we will execute a massive operation.

The question is, are you?


!


Don't...
Stop...

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 355: Song of the Fairies

*Shirt Patch: Eyebrows

LAMIA SCALE

Name: Yûka Suzuki **Age:** 25

Magic: Wave Motion

Likes: Eyebrows **Dislikes:** Salty foods

Remarks

His magic creates a wave form that eliminates his opponent's magic abilities, and because of that, most of the jobs he goes on set him against other wizards. For a little while, he, Toby, and Sherry did too much evil and were expelled from their guild. Then they met Lyon and committed even more evil acts.

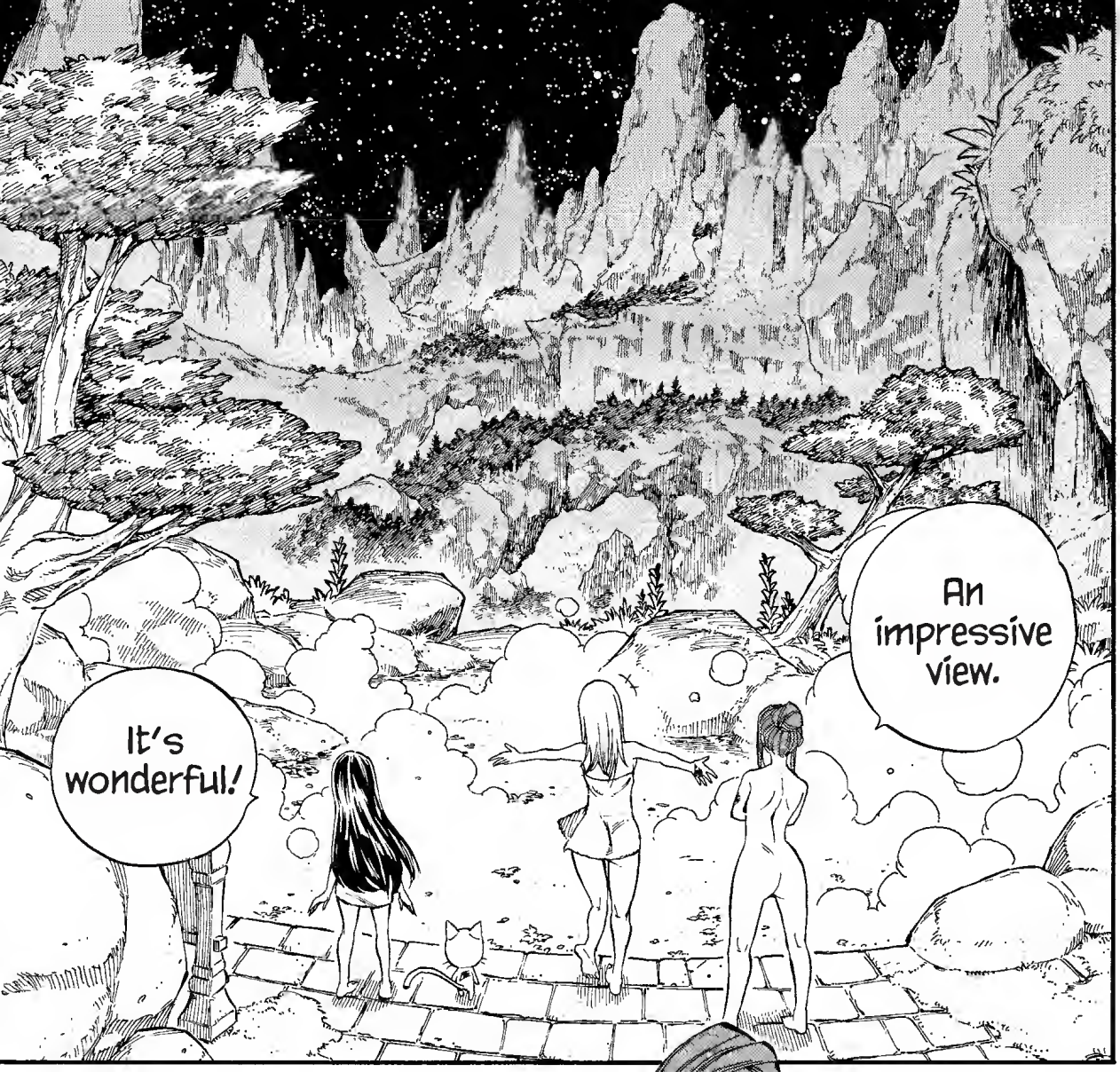
But after they met Natsu and the Fairy Tail members, they were reinstated, and with Jura's lectures, they've matured quite a bit.

He has too-prominent eyebrows. A long time ago, he played a game to see how many matchsticks he could balance on top of them.

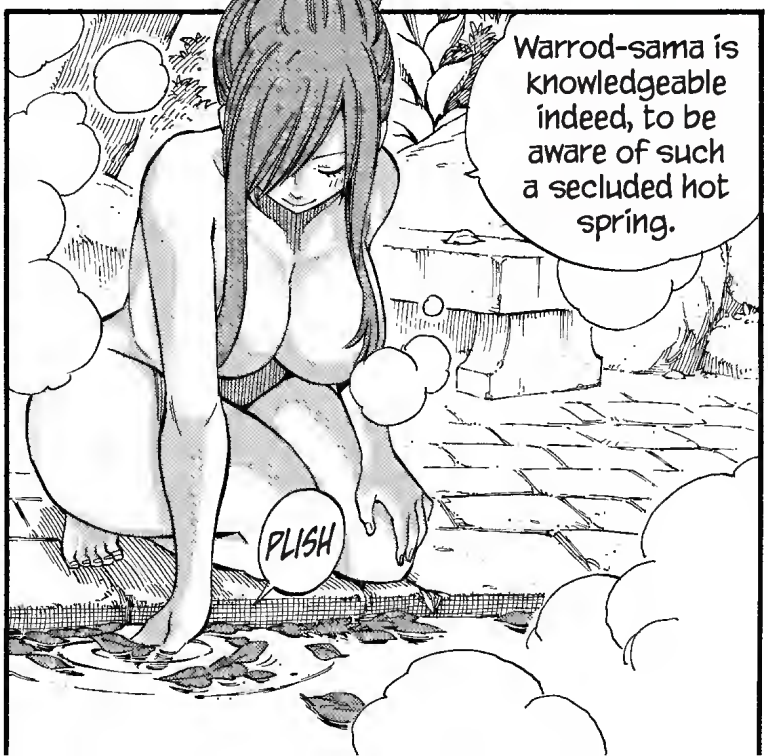
WA HA HA HA HA!
I *knew* I was right to entrust the job to you!!
And you did a great job! A *great* job!!
We kicked their butts out of there. *Way* out! ♡
By the way, what happened to the robbers ?
We are very relieved to have accomplished the task you set us, Warrod-sama.
Aw, it was easy!

Hm... You can trust the Council to investigate that.
We *were* surprised by the fact that Tartaros was involved!
Here.
Well, it *was* a job, so it's only natural.
Just what we were waiting for!!
But more importantly, I must ready your reward!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...
It's a potato from my very own garden!
HYA HYA
うひゃひゃ
HYA HYA
ひゃひゃ
Here...? What?

Just fork over the cash!!!!
Who cares where you got it?!!!
It's not from my garden. I bought it from a nearby village.
AH HA... HA...
Y-Yeah. I guess it would be.
...That was a joke!
Wow! ♡ This is amazing !!

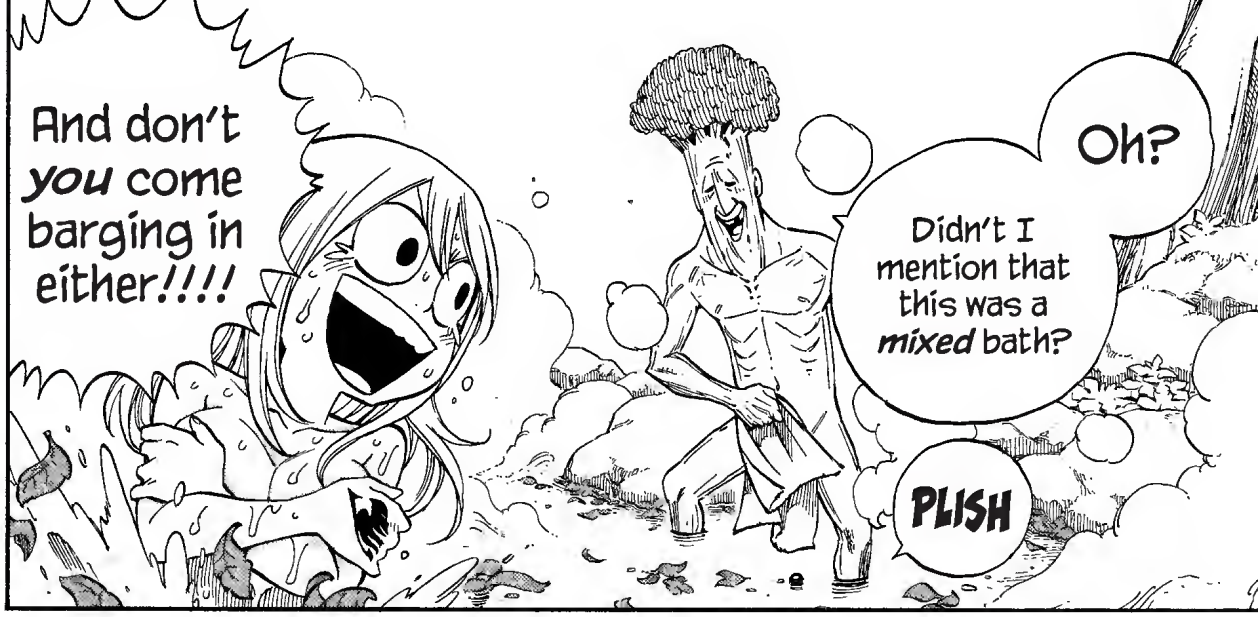

An impressive view.
It's wonderful!

WOW!
Look, Wendy! It says bathing in the water here will help both your health and beauty!

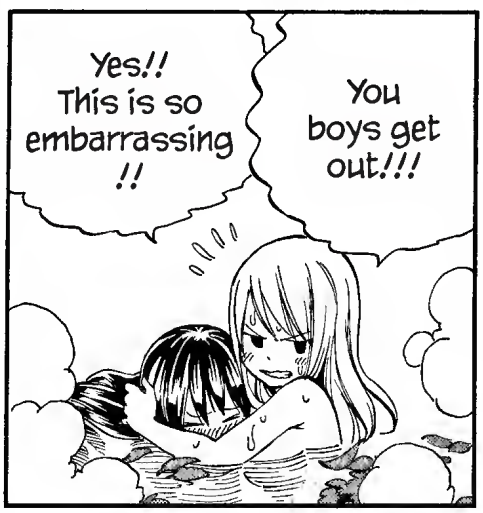

Warrod-sama is knowledgeable indeed, to be aware of such a secluded hot spring.
PLISH

STEAM
STEAM
A hot bath after a job is the most wonderful feeling!
But... I kind of feel sorry for Natsu and Gray.
Never mind them! They probably have no interest in hot springs anyway.
It truly refreshes an exhausted body and soul...
STEAM
STEAM
...and allows one to concentrate on the challenges of tomorrow.

We like a nice soak now and again.
Aye!
Well... I wouldn't go that far.
GONNNNG
Yeah, you guys got in *after* we were already here!
We were here first!
YWIP
BLUP BLUP BLUP
This is the women's bath!!! You're not allowed!!!!
Eeee eeee !!!
ZPLASH


And don't *you* come barging in either!!!!
Oh?
Didn't I mention that this was a *mixed* bath?
PLISH

Whoa! That's low! Do you have a death wish?!
Yeah, it gets stale after a while.
Hey, I've seen you naked enough to be sick of it anyway.


Yes!! This is so embarrassing !!
You boys get out!!!

Mmm...
Urk!
After all, Gray, Natsu, and I used to take baths together all the time.
That's what we're saying is abnormal !!!

No, it isn't!!!
Is it not normal for comrades to be on such terms?
Still, let us all be calm.

Ho ho ho!! Isn't camaraderie a beautiful thing?
You're not that kind of comrade !!!!
Shall I wash your back like we used to so long ago?
N-no!! Don't bother!!!
We ain't kids anymore!!!
You don't think so?
Oh, yes... I may not have mentioned it.
SPLOOSH!!!

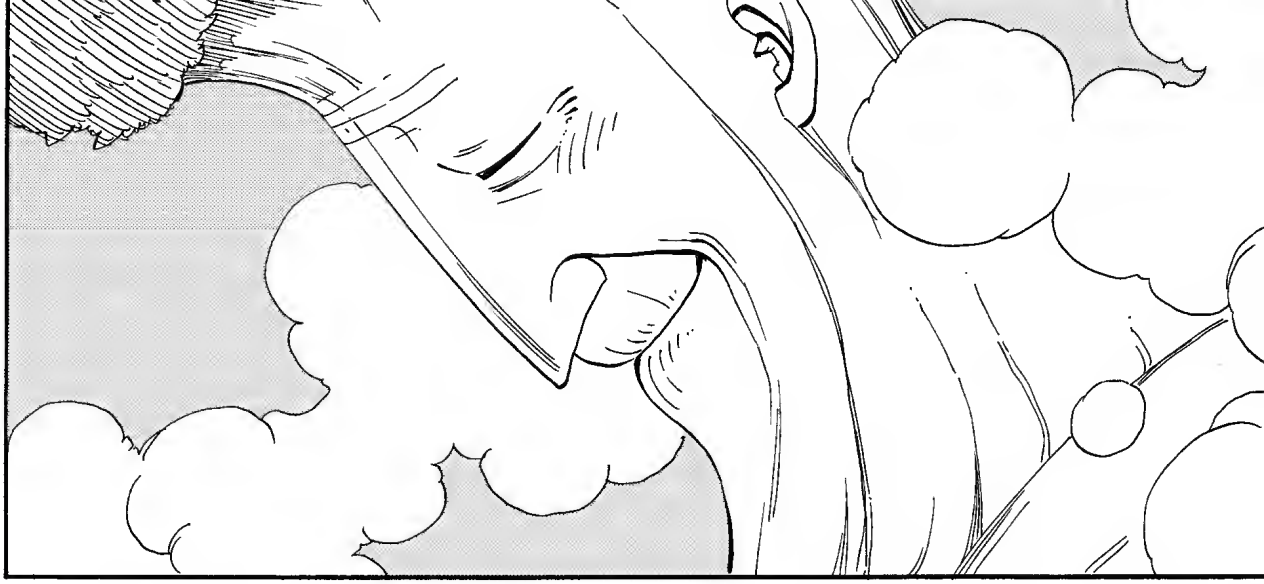
DO'O
I was one of the founding members of Fairy Tail. I was there with Mavis when it all began.
I am an elder member of your guild!!!
OM
!!
Hm?
You kiddin' me...?!!
Wha—?!!

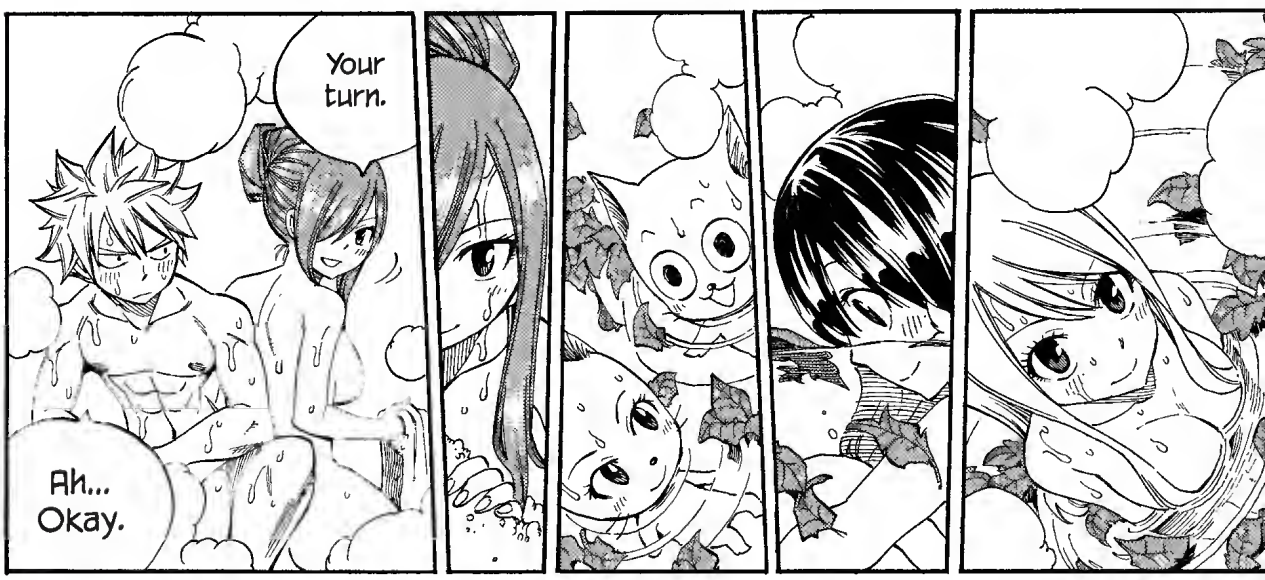
No... You will *have* to go... And this time, you're going to be on your absolute *best* behavior...
Oh, yeah... That's why...
The master is a wizard saint too, so I was wondering why he was talking that way.
It was Fairy Tail?
So the guild you retired from...
SPLASSH
...true, actually.
That was a joke, too?!
WHA?!
...That was...
...
So that is why you requested Natsu and Gray?
When you visited my home, I thought I caught the scent of those old wooden beams that make up the guild.
Hm. Indeed.

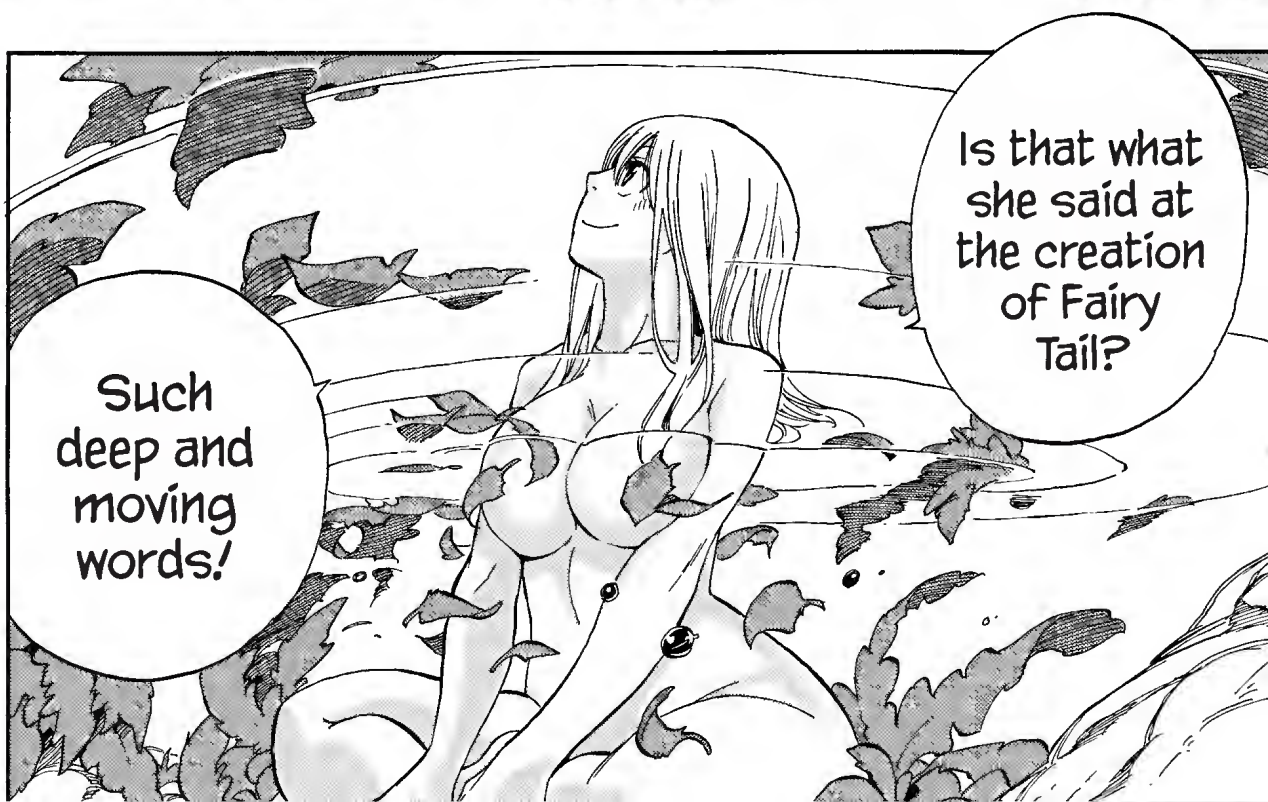
Being able to meet you young fairies...
...is a real joy!
SPLASH
SPLASH
The conversation will never move forward at this rate.
...That was a joke!
This is the *harmony* that Mavis was always talking about.
She wanted the wizard guild Fairy Tail to have a bond between souls even stronger than blood!
Even now, after all these years, that spirit endures.
You've carried it on within your hearts.
No matter what the result of your job...
...I felt it the very first moment that I saw you.

Mavis once said...
It's friendship of the heart.
...camaraderie isn't just a word.
It's that person you trust unconditionally.
You can rely on me.
Just as I'm sure I will be relying on you.

Now let us walk together... to the rhythm of the fairies' song...
The breeze on your skin foretells the events of tomorrow.
There are as many dreams out there as there are stars in the sky.
Remember you aren't alone!
...I will be by your side.
In painful times... In sad times...



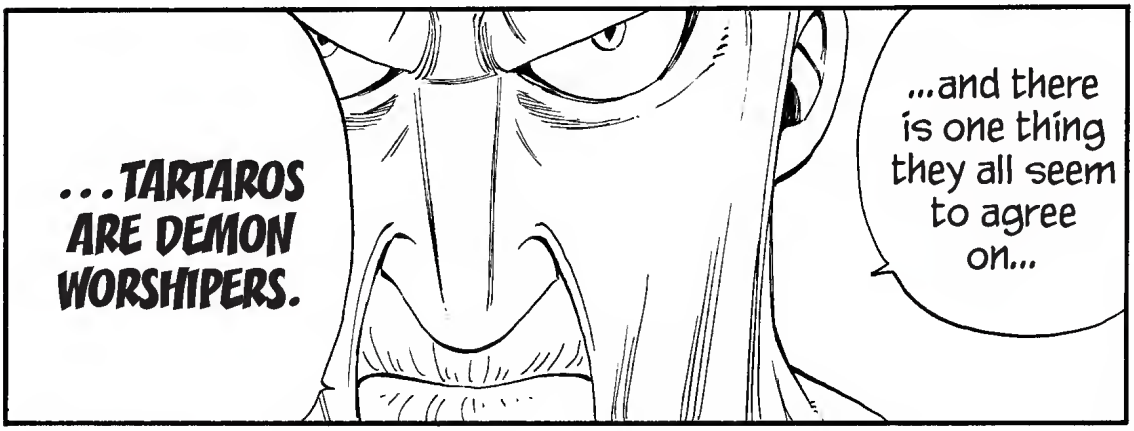

Your turn.
Ah... Okay.

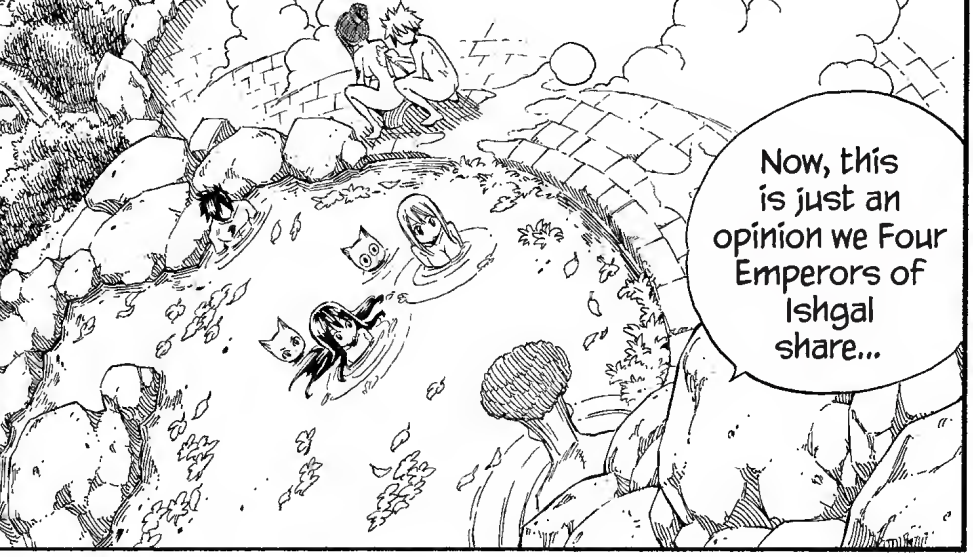

Is that what she said at the creation of Fairy Tail?
Such deep and moving words!

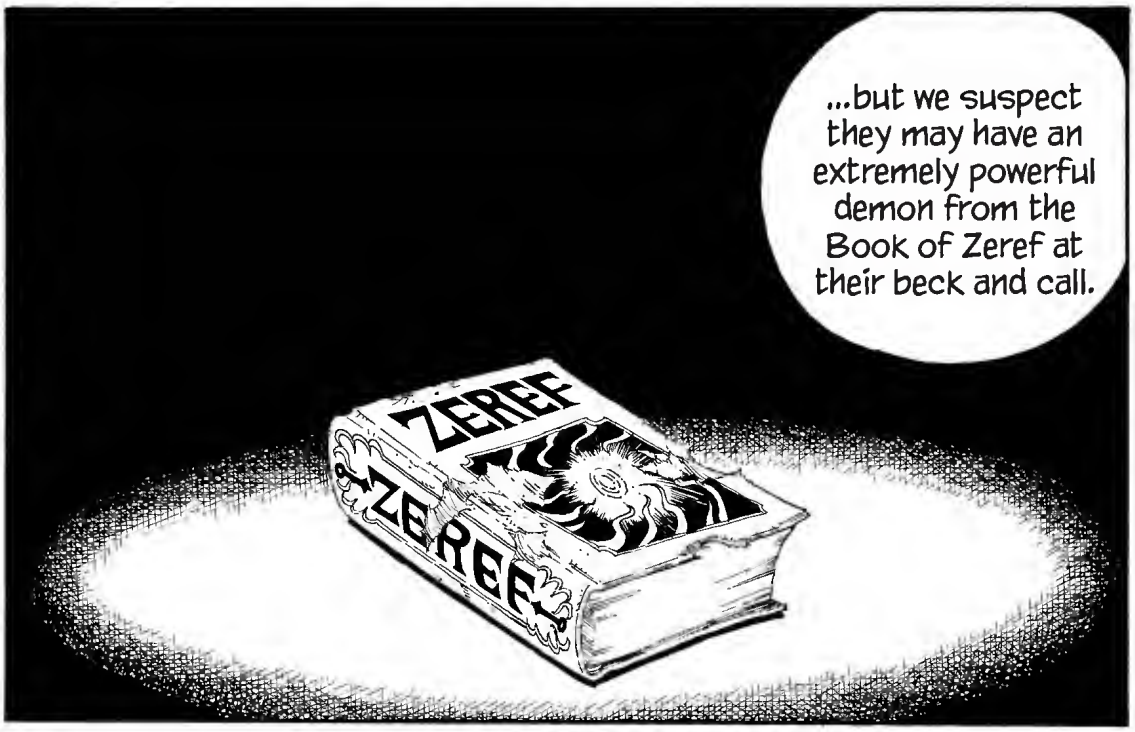
No... What I meant is maybe a guy that old might know about that demon, E.N.D.
SCRUB
SCRUB
Wait! I don't believe it!! That means you're older than the old man?!!
Do not be rude, Natsu.
I heard that my dad, the dragon, tried to fight it.
It's a demon from the Book of Zeref.
E.N.D.? As in the end of the world?
The Book of Zeref... Another dangerous name.
It was something Atlas Flame told us about.
I was kinda hoping that if I knew what E.N.D. was, I might get a hint to where Igneel went.
Hm...
Sorry. I've never heard of it.

However, when you mentioned Tartaros this afternoon, I remembered something.

They are a creepy guild, and we know nothing about them...
...not the location of their base, the number of their members, or anything else.
However, a number of people have witnessed their meetings...


...and there is one thing they all seem to agree on...
...TARTAROS ARE DEMON WORSHIPERS.

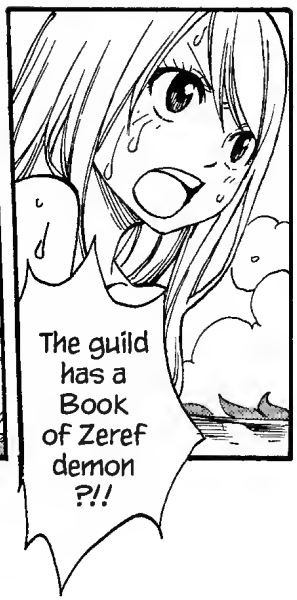

Now, this is just an opinion we Four Emperors of Ishgal share...


...but we suspect they may have an extremely powerful demon from the Book of Zeref at their beck and call.
ZEREF
ZEREF

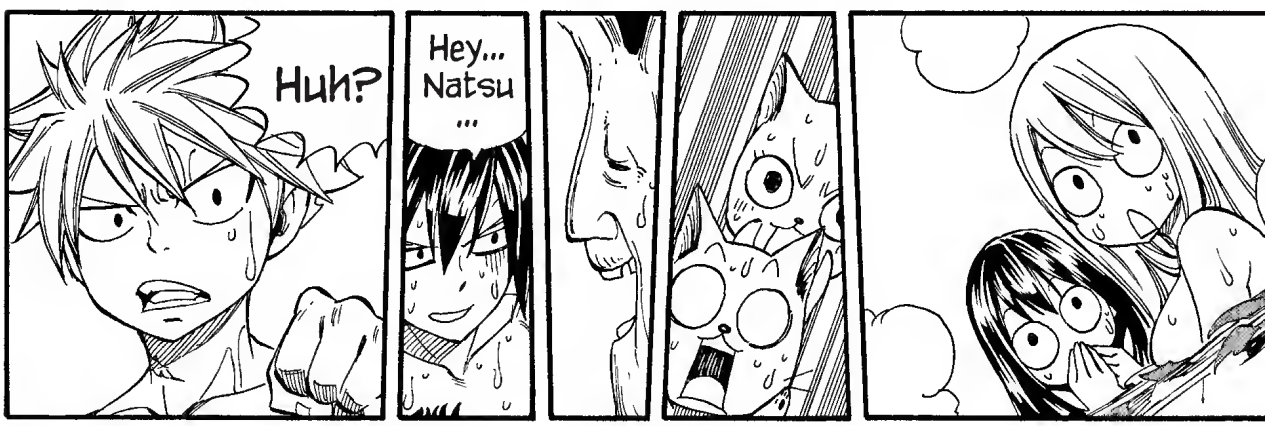
Is that right...?

It all fits with what the Succubus Eye guy said...

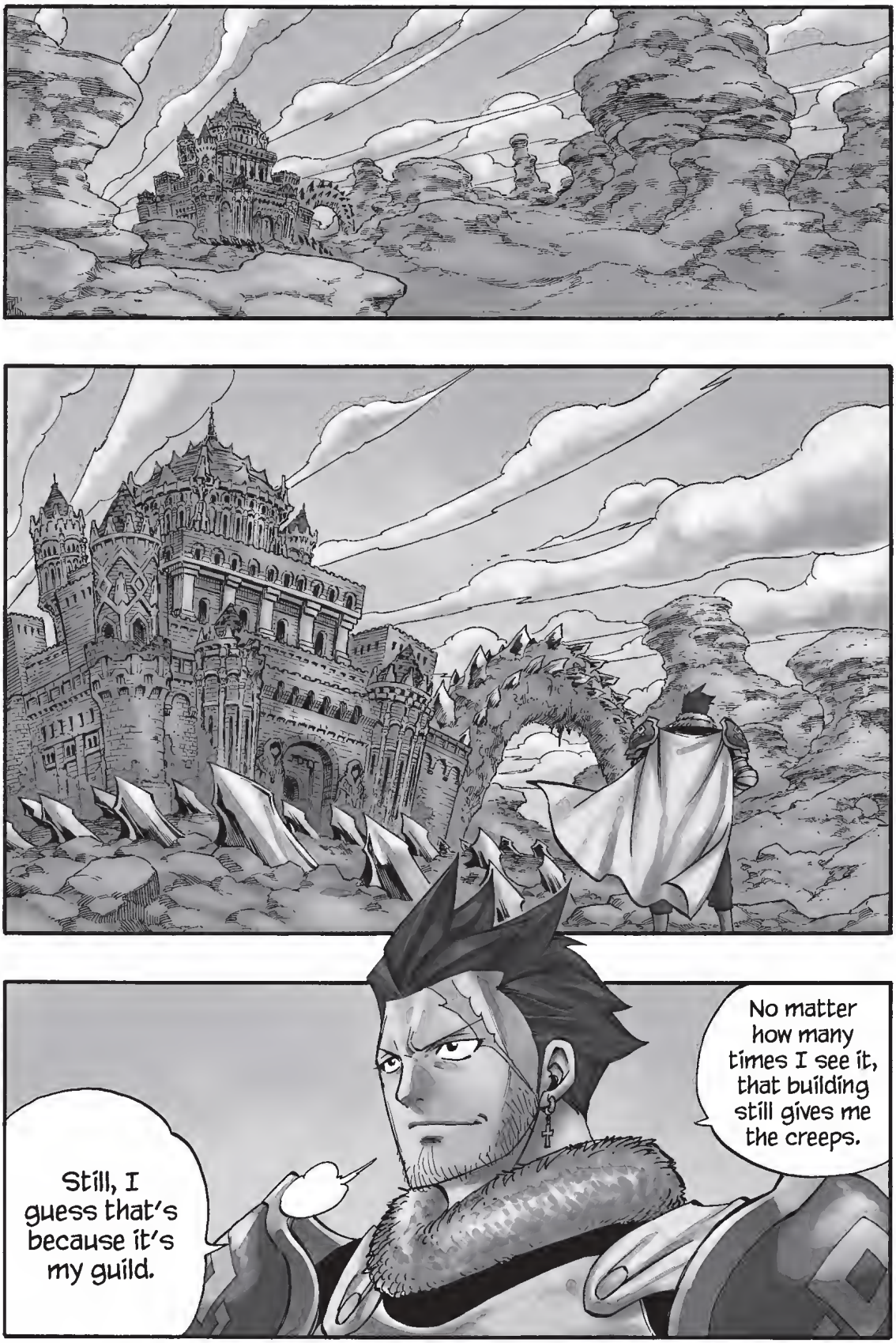
You think it could be E.N.D.?!!


The guild has a Book of Zeref demon ?!!

WHAK
KONK
SWATCH
Once I find one of 'em, I'm gonna beat the info out of him!!!!
There ain't no way I can go after a guild when I don't know where it is!!!
Dammit !!!
Bam, bam, just like this!
GRUNCH
WHAM
CRAC

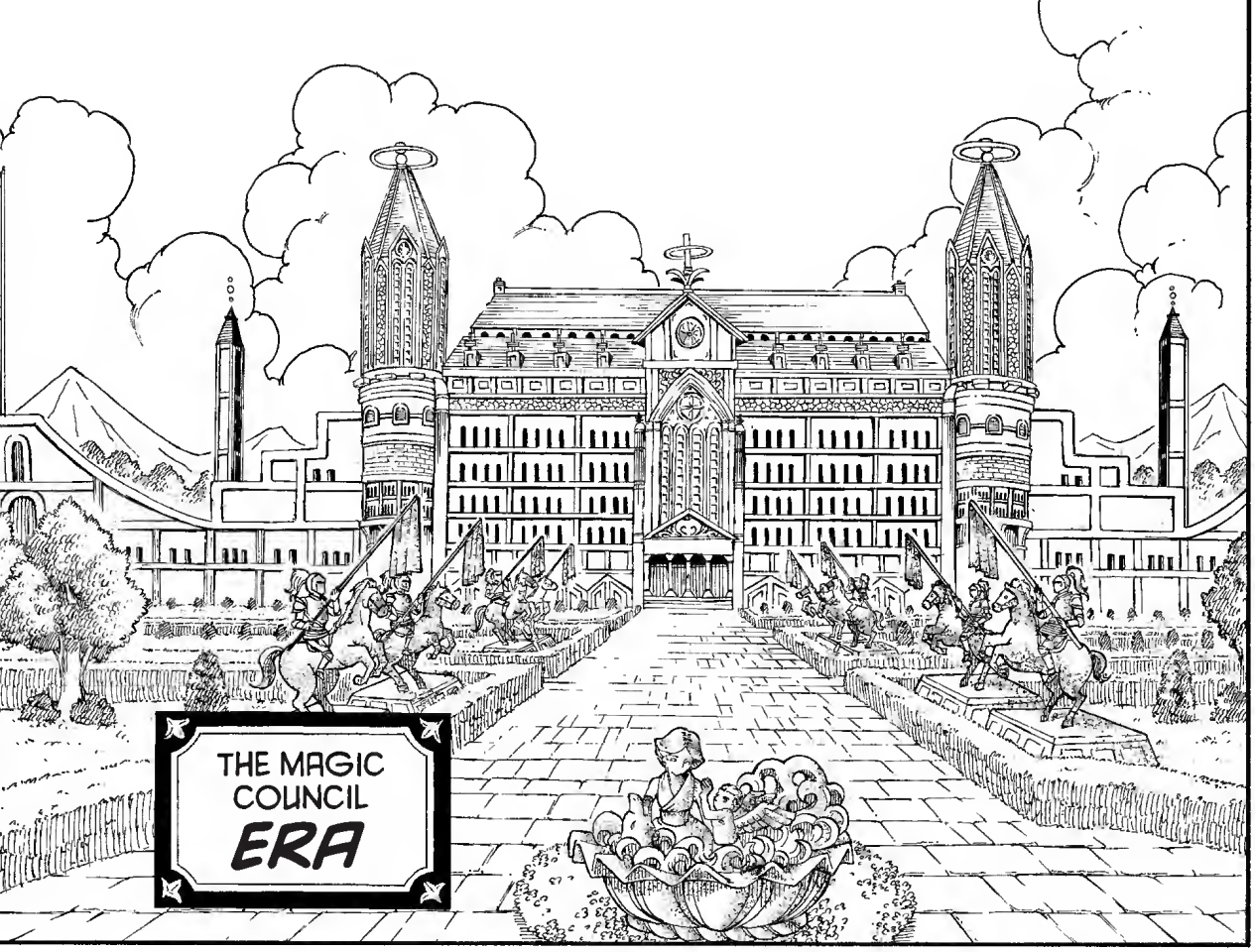

Huh?
Hey... Natsu ...

がぁあ
YAAAAAAA!!
あぁ
VOOM
HO?
GRUNCH

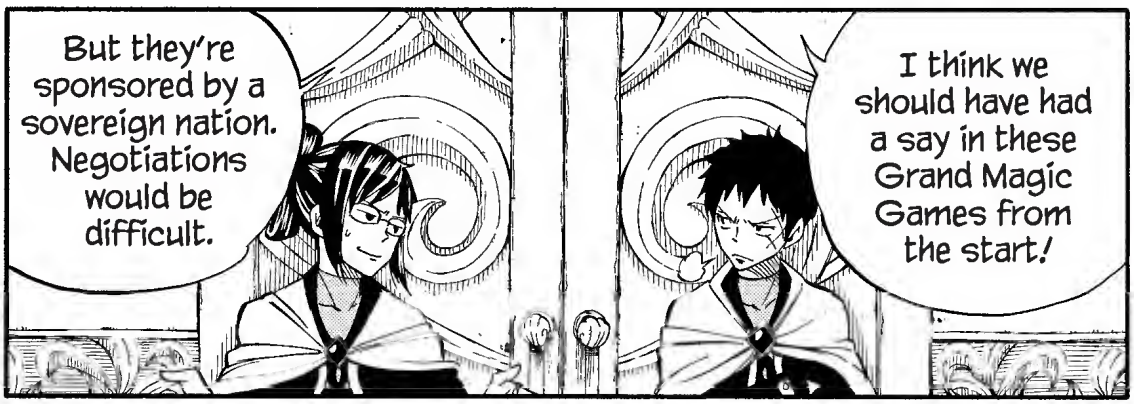

No matter how many times I see it, that building still gives me the creeps.
Still, I guess that's because it's my guild.

Chapter 356: Tartaros Arc Prologue

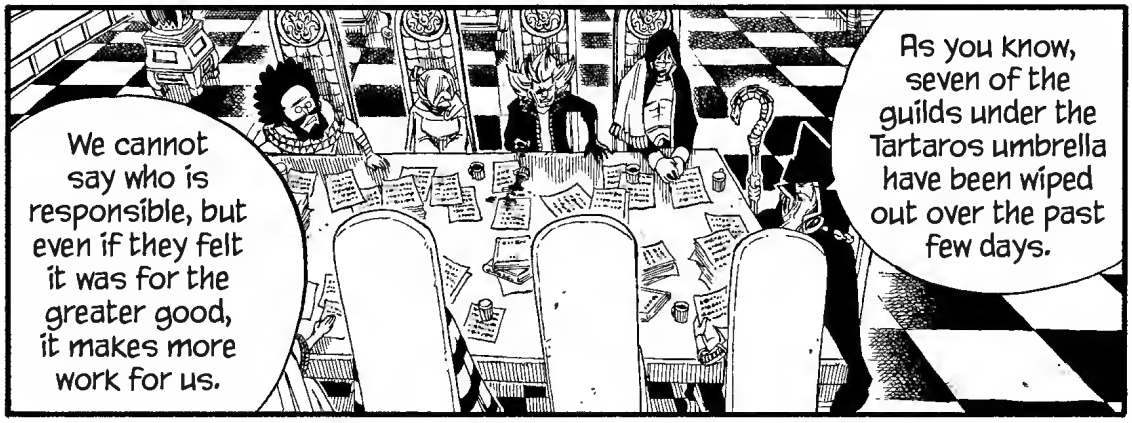
FAIRY TAIL

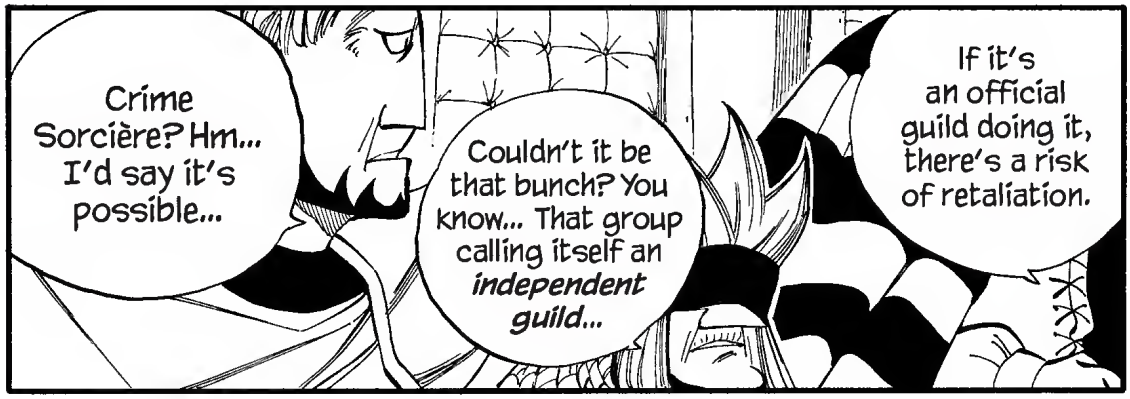

THE MAGIC COUNCIL
ERA

First they come back from Sirius Island, and now this?
You mean Fairy Tail won the Grand Magic Games...?
Can't they ever show any restraint?!
Oh, for pity's sake!


But they're sponsored by a sovereign nation. Negotiations would be difficult.
I think we should have had a say in these Grand Magic Games from the start!

BAM
BAM
Everyone... Be silent!
We are meeting today to discuss Tartaros!
CHAIRMAN OF THE MAGIC COUNCIL
GRAND DOMA

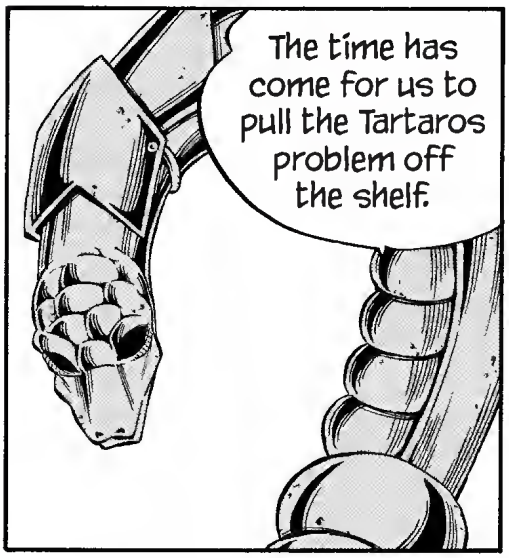

We cannot say who is responsible, but even if they felt it was for the greater good, it makes more work for us.
As you know, seven of the guilds under the Tartaros umbrella have been wiped out over the past few days.

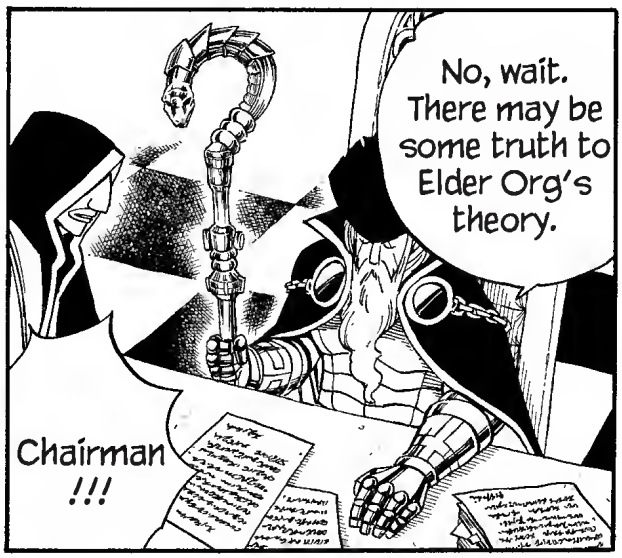

Crime Sorcière? Hm... I'd say it's possible...
Couldn't it be that bunch? You know... That group calling itself an *independent guild*...
If it's an official guild doing it, there's a risk of retaliation.

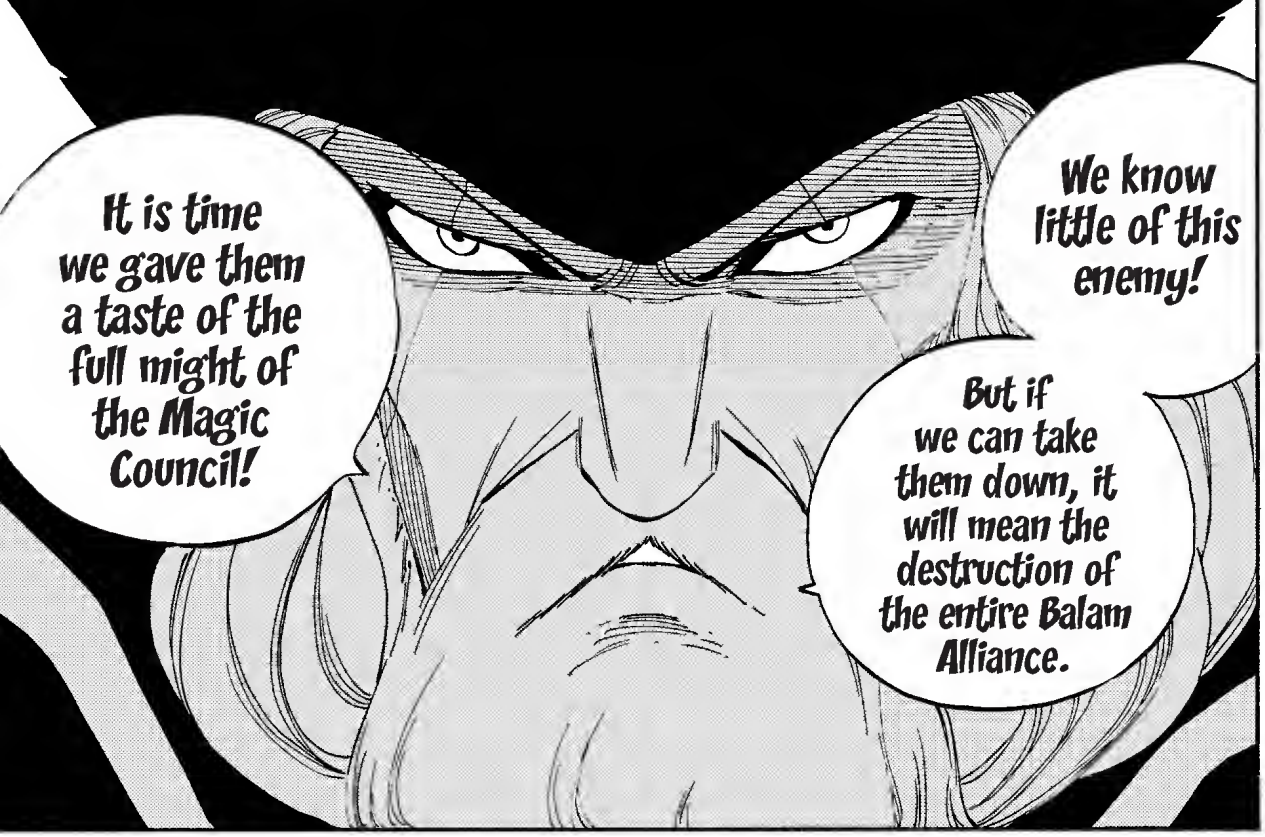
Elder Org, you tend to take the fairies' side a lot recently.
I don't know if it's advisable to try to connect everything that happens to Fairy Tail.
It's like their guiding principle is to be obnoxious showoffs!
Well, we all know it will turn out to be the work of Fairy Tail!
No... We're talking about possibilities here...
So I think it is conceivable that Tartaros itself is assuming direct control over its subordinate guilds.
But there are many potential motives. A military buildup, or weeding out weaker guilds.
I couldn't say.
Why would they do that?

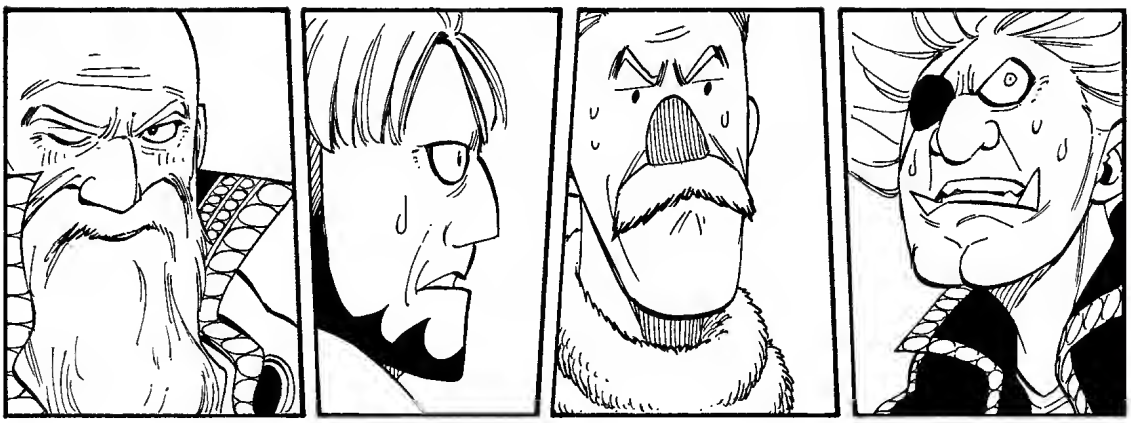
ふはははははっ!!!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!!!!

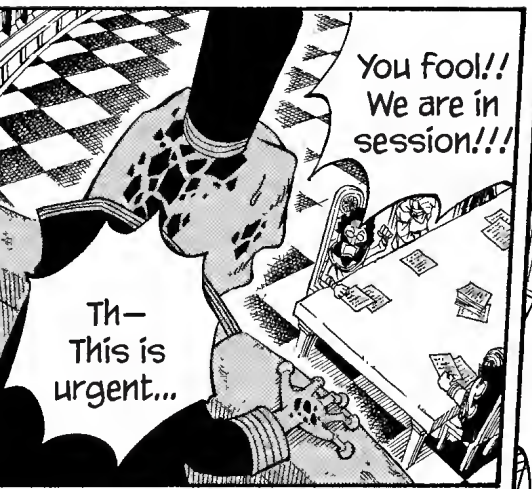
You're getting on in years, aren't you, Elder Org?
I think we can safely assume that Tartaros has all the military strength they need!
Prepos-terous!
Dark guilds destroying their own?
ふはは
AH HA HA HA


The time has come for us to pull the Tartaros problem off the shelf.


No, wait. There may be some truth to Elder Org's theory.
Chairman !!!


It is time we gave them a taste of the full might of the Magic Council!
We know little of this enemy!
But if we can take them down, it will mean the destruction of the entire Balam Alliance.

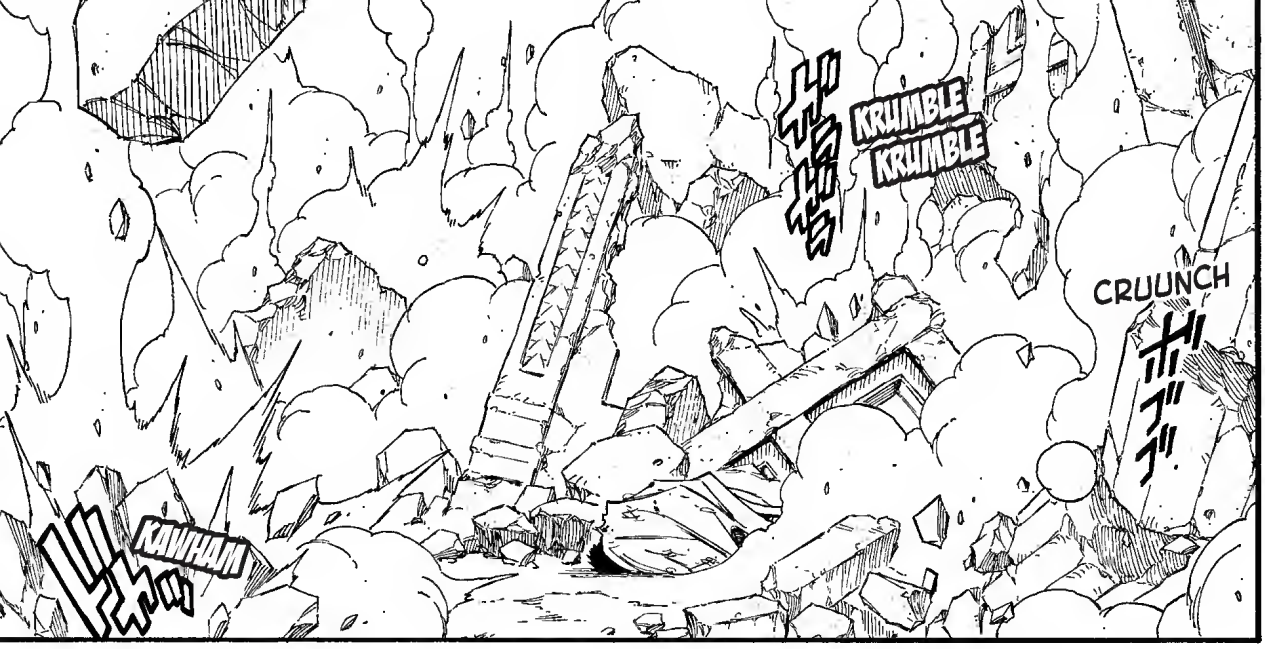


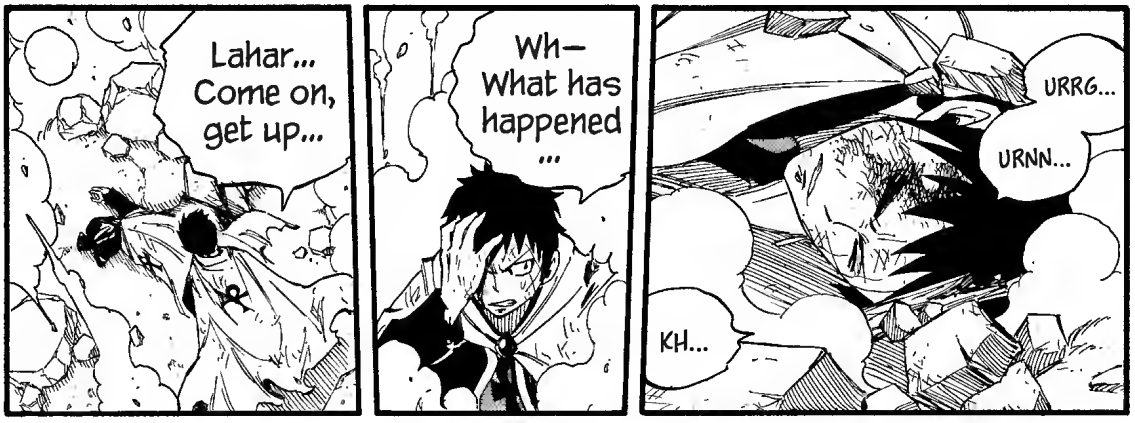

You fool!! We are in session!!!
Th— This is urgent...

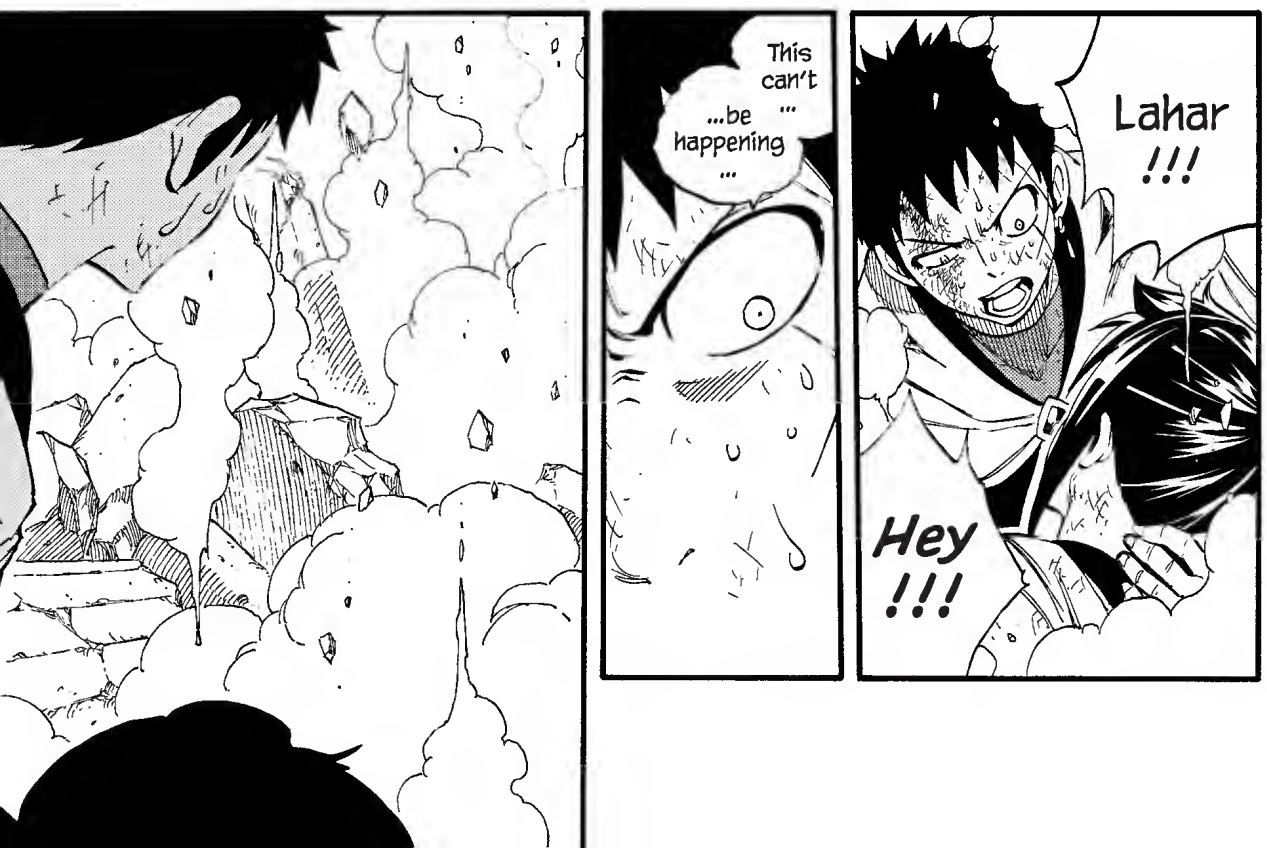
!!!
Everyone, terrible news!
What ?!

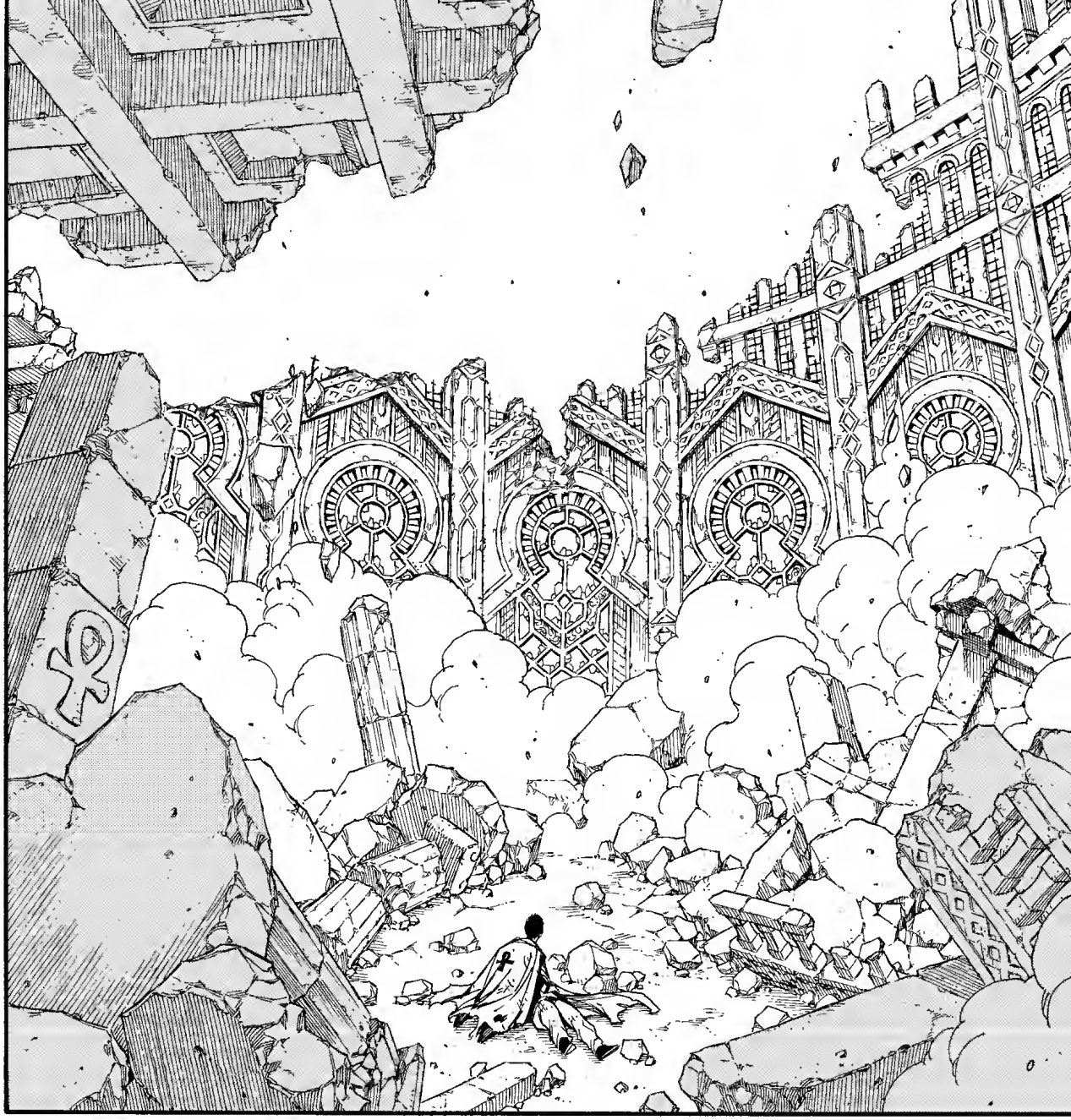
DOKOOOOOM
There are intruders ...

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
DOGAM
GAM
GAM
GAM
GAM
Gah!
KABOOM
Uwaah
!!
SHABAAM
AAAA
!!


KRUMBLE
KRUMBLE
CRUUNCH
KAHHAH


Lahar... Come on, get up...
Wh— What has happened ...
URRG...
URNN...
KH...

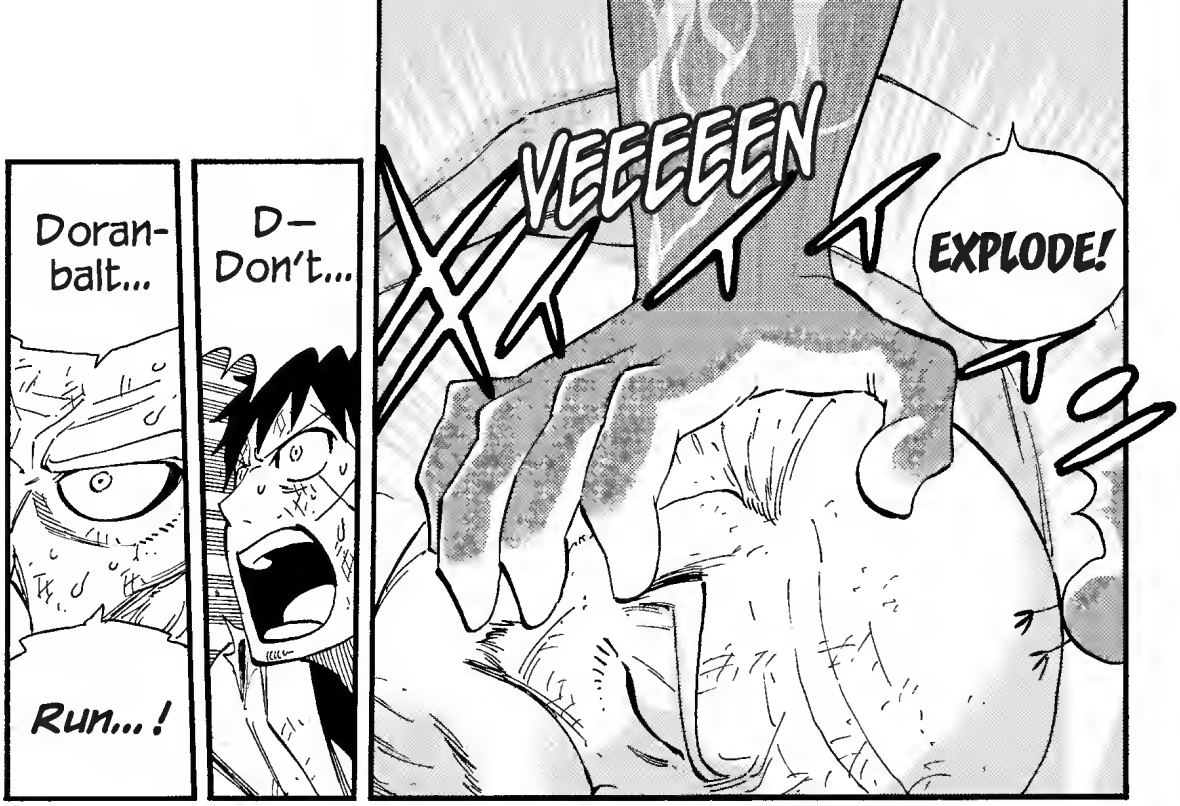

This can't ... ...be happening ...
Lahar !!!
Hey !!!

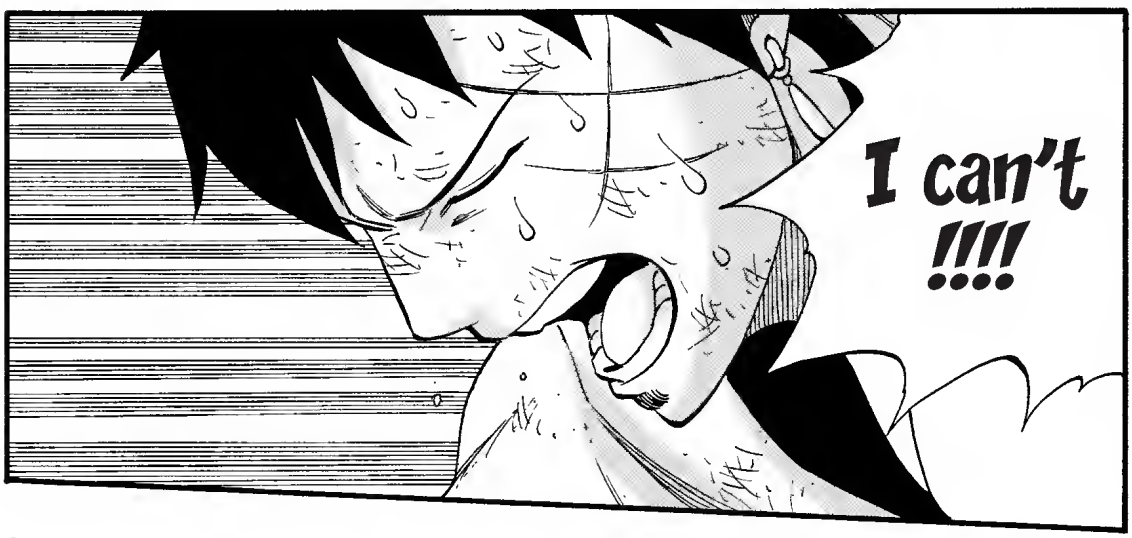


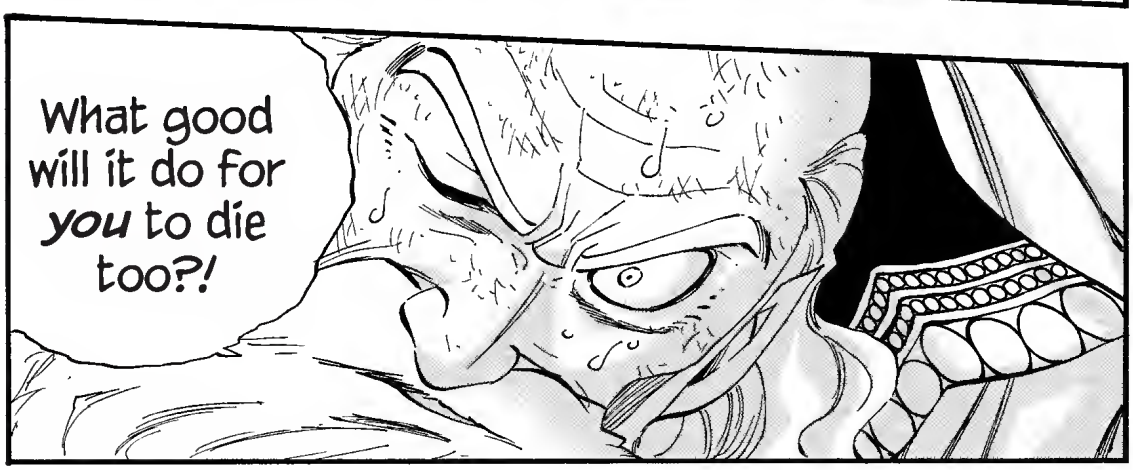
No...!

Elder Org!!!
Doranbalt ...
!! BOOM !!
Is anybody... alive out there...?
Guh!
GAGH!
WHAM
HEHN
!!!

Oh, no, you don't!
I can't leave you alive!
We're after all nine members of the council!


Doran-balt...
Run...!
D— Don't...
VEEEEEEN
EXPLODE!


I can't !!!!


What good will it do for *you* to die too?!

VEEEEEEN
Doranbalt, go!!!!
You'll never get away.
You can't outrun my explosions.

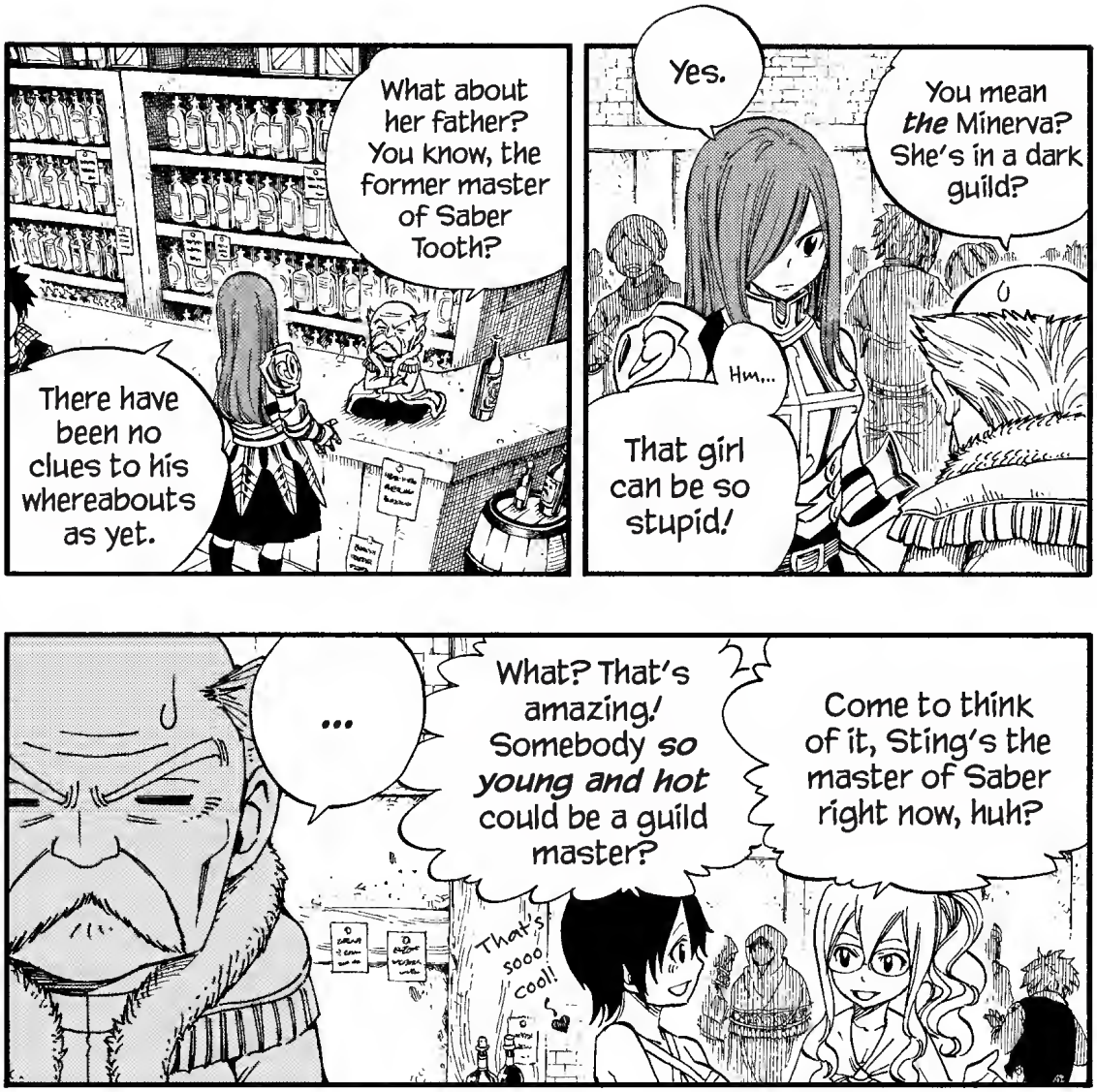
VEEEEEEN
I am Jackal!
One of the Nine Demon Gates of Tartaros.
...

You'll remember my name in Hell!
The name of the one who killed the entire Council!

Live on, Doranbalt!!!! See that justice is done!!!!
!!!!
KABOOOM
Elder Org!!!!

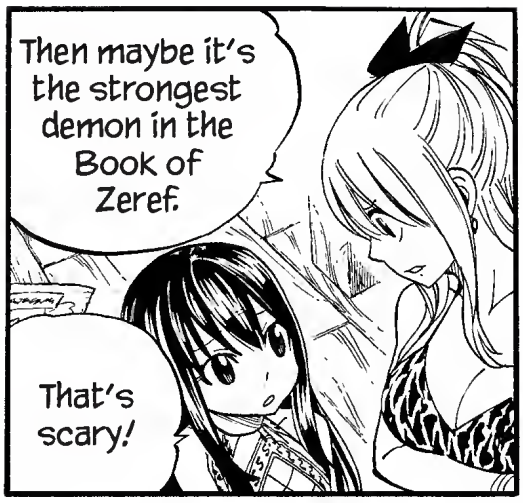
FAIRY TAIL
WIZARD GUILD
FAIRY TAIL

CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CHATTER
CHATTER
Okay, coming!
Mira-chan, over here with the hard stuff!
Dad!! It's the middle of the day!
I saw you leering at Lisanna!!
I wasn't!♪
Elf, stop that right now!
Don't go touching it!
Look at the weird bug!

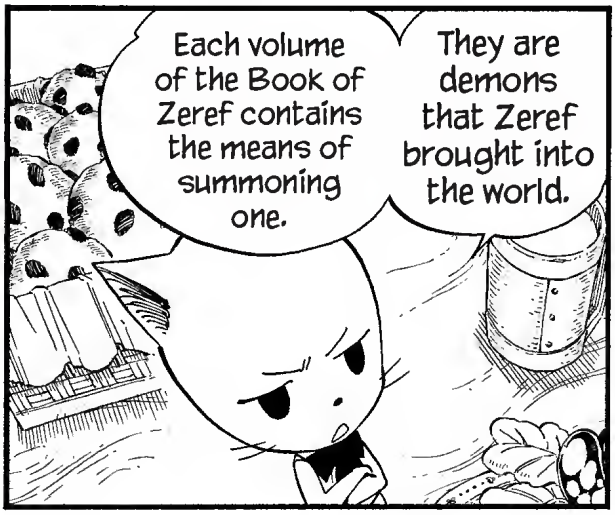

What about her father? You know, the former master of Saber Tooth?
There have been no clues to his whereabouts as yet.
Yes.
You mean *the* Minerva? She's in a dark guild?
Hm...
That girl can be so stupid!
...
What? That's amazing! Somebody *so young and hot* could be a guild master?
That's sooo cool!
Come to think of it, Sting's the master of Saber right now, huh?
Look at this, Gray-sama!!
I was thinking of informing Sting as well.
But we must report this to the Council.

Juvia calls them, "Gray's Buns"!!
They probably taste great, but I really don't want to eat my own face.
Juvia whipped up some treats!
BUUN
GAK!
That's what Juvia thought, so Juvia will eat Gray's Buns!
And for you, Gray-sama... "JuviBuns"!!
I walked right into that one!!
JUVEEEN
AAAACK !!!!
If he doesn't want 'em, I'll eat 'em!
GOBBLE
It's back to the status quo.
Wait! Wait! Didn't Gray say he was going to dump Juvia once and for all?

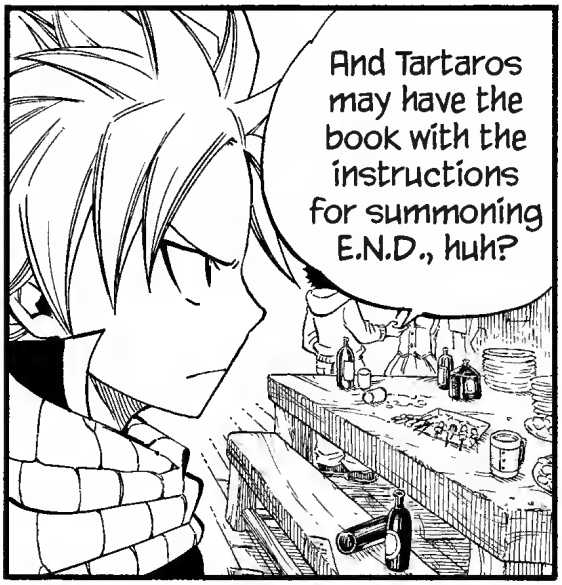
Well, since you went to all the trouble, I'll try one.
CHOMP
Waa!! First some *other* man eats Juvia's buns, and then he makes some comment Juvia doesn't understand!
Elf, get a clue, okay?
Mmm... These are a *man's* buns!!!
That's one of Gray's Buns!
BLEAGH!
Gray-sama...
E.N.D.
It doesn't go into much detail, but...
Look at this!

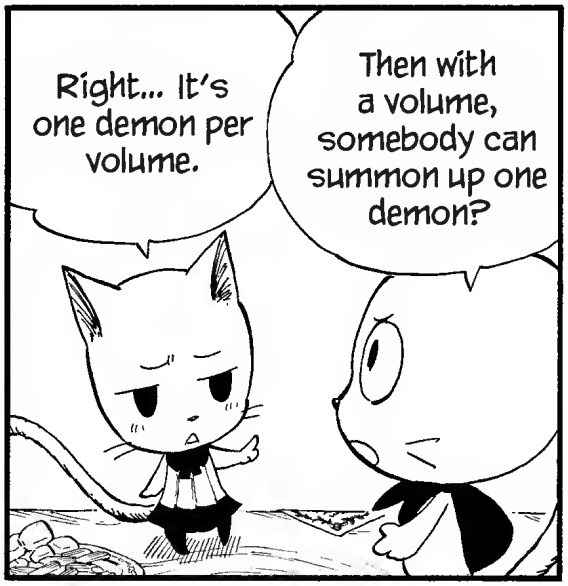

Then maybe it's the strongest demon in the Book of Zeref.
That's scary!

It says that demons like Lullaby and Deliora don't even compare to this one.

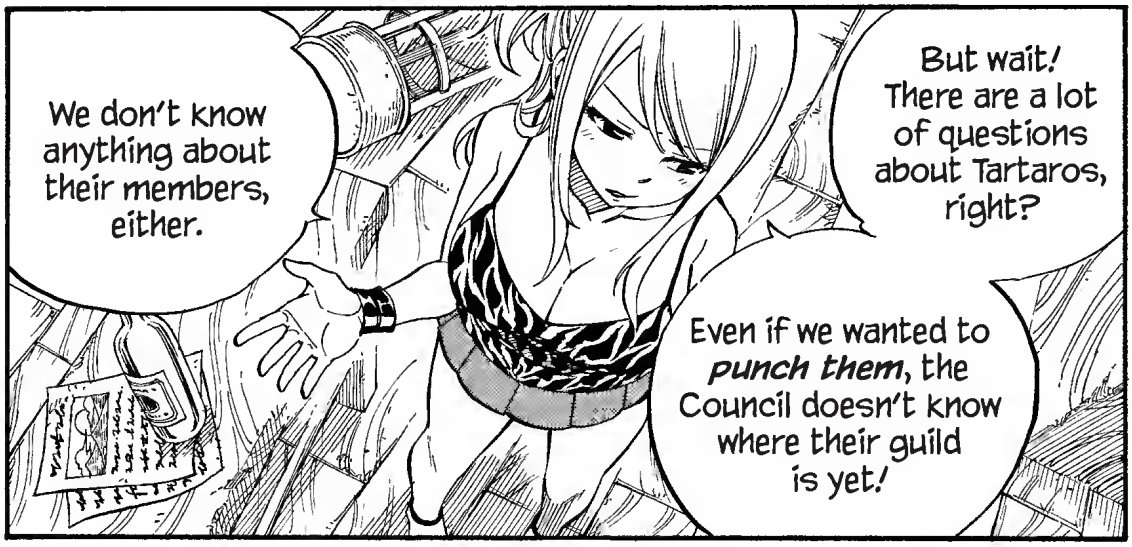

Each volume of the Book of Zeref contains the means of summoning one.
They are demons that Zeref brought into the world.

How should I know?
What are demons from the Book of Zeref, anyway?


And Tartaros may have the book with the instructions for summoning E.N.D., huh?

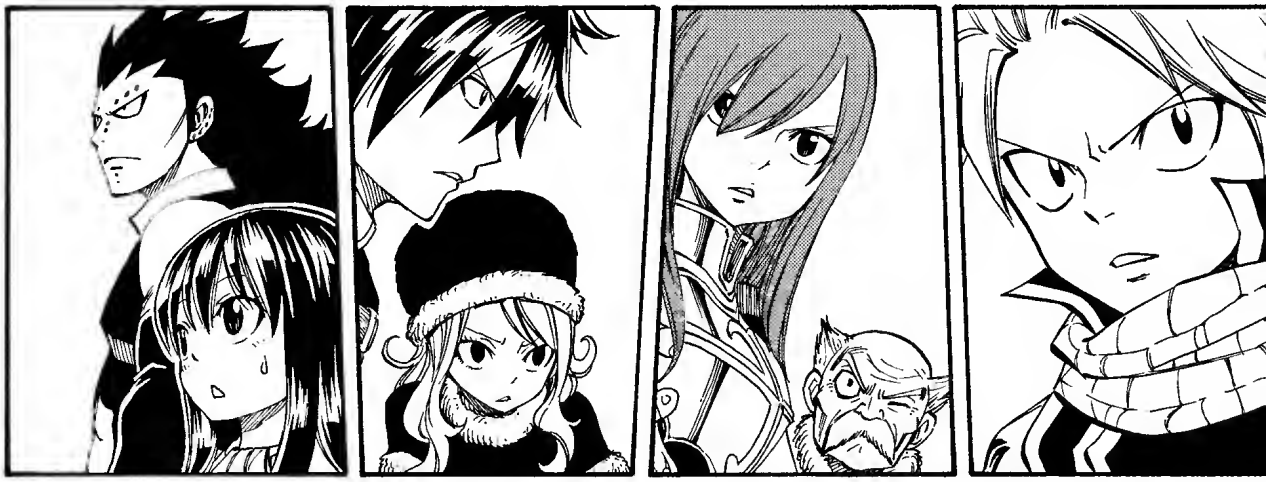

Right... It's one demon per volume.
Then with a volume, somebody can summon up one demon?

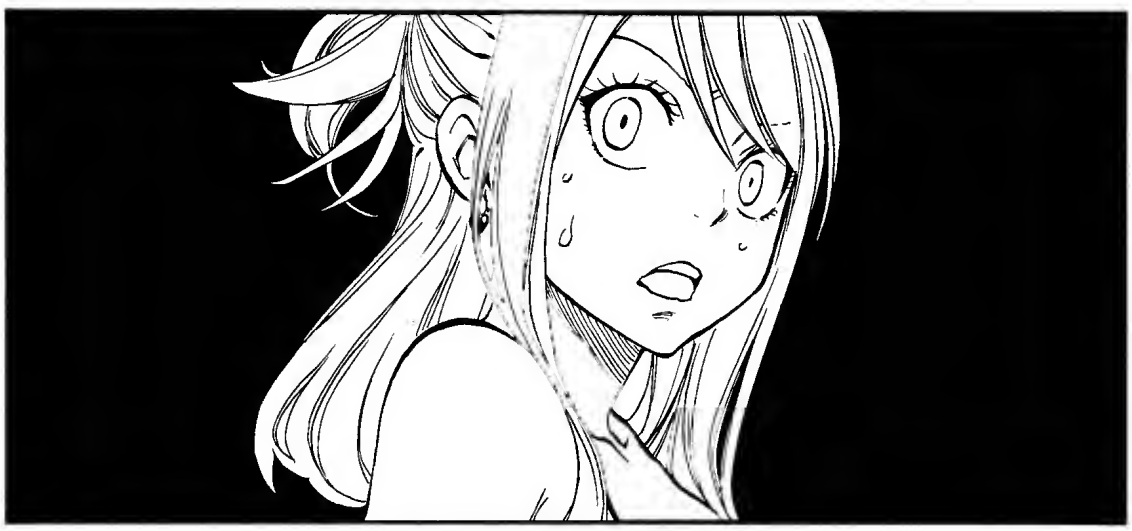
That means... That when Igneel tried to destroy E.N.D. ...
Okay... The plan's coming together now.
Huh? What's the plan, then?
We go punch Tartaros good!
I'm for that!!
That's no plan at all!!


But wait! There are a lot of questions about Tartaros, right?
We don't know anything about their members, either.
Even if we wanted to *punch them*, the Council doesn't know where their guild is yet!

But... They could have clues to where Igneel is.
Yeah... Grandeeney, too.
It might even lead to a connection to Metalicana.

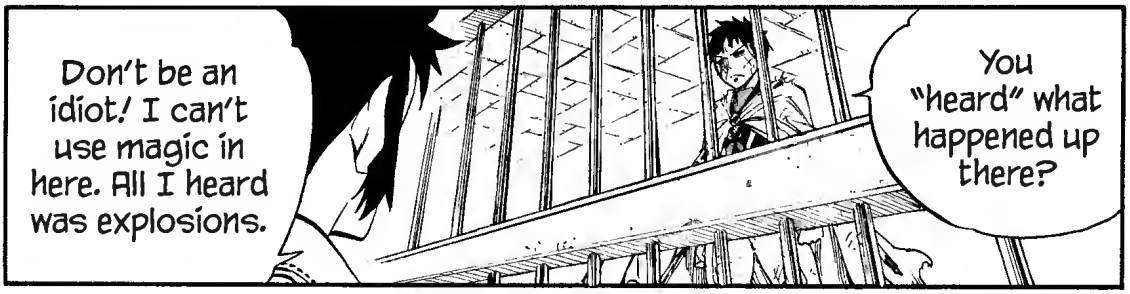
Huge news !!!!
BAM
This is big!!!!

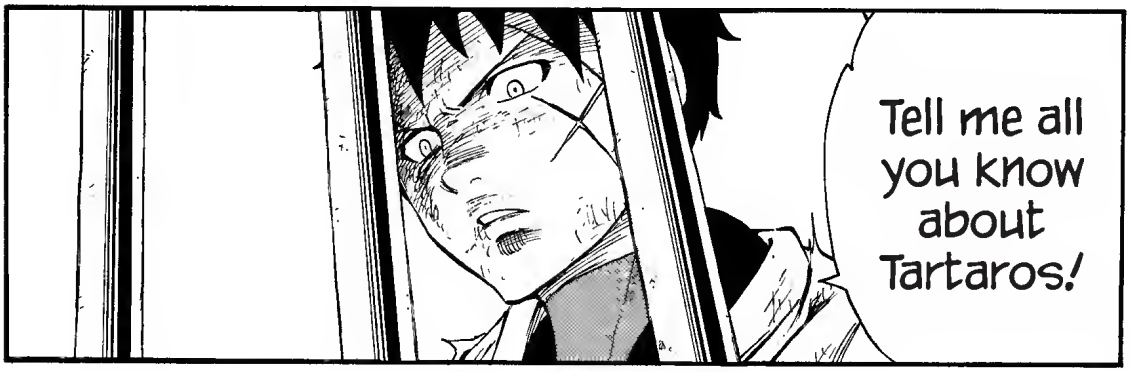




KANNK
KANNK

Been expecting you.


You "heard" what happened up there?
Don't be an idiot! I can't use magic in here. All I heard was explosions.

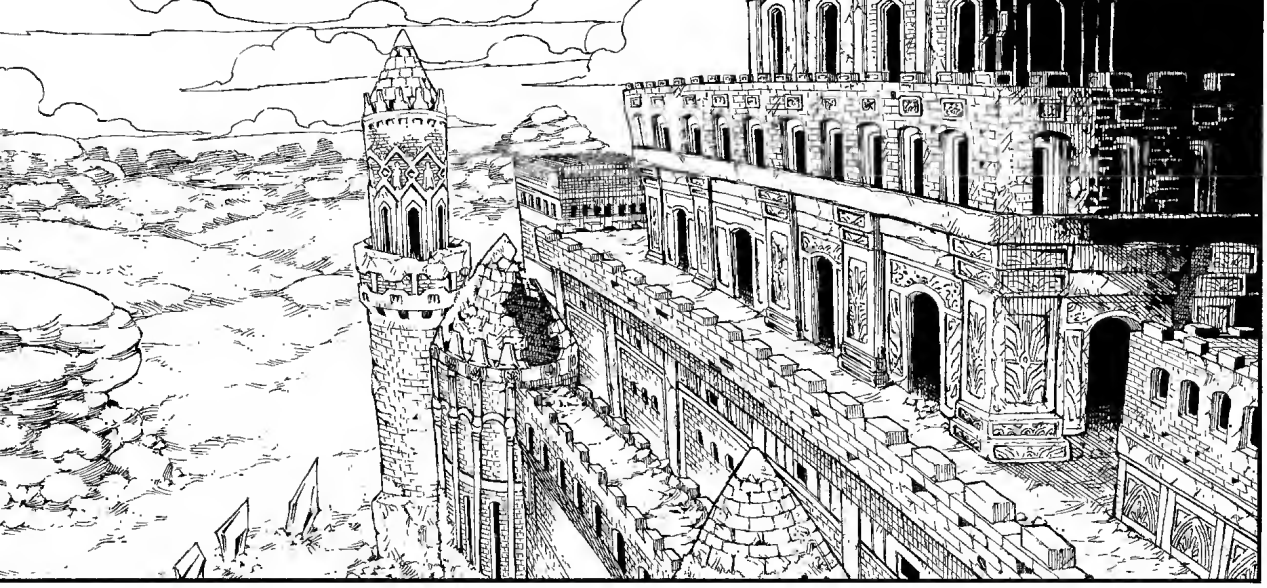

Tell me all you know about Tartaros!

Then go up there and get it.
I don't have the authority.
I told you before, I got terms.
You gotta release the entire Oración Seis.
Up there...
...the entire Council has been wiped out.
They really did a number on you guys, huh?

My friends are *dead!* I don't have the luxury of being patient with you anymore!
Tell me what I want to know, or you die.
SHING

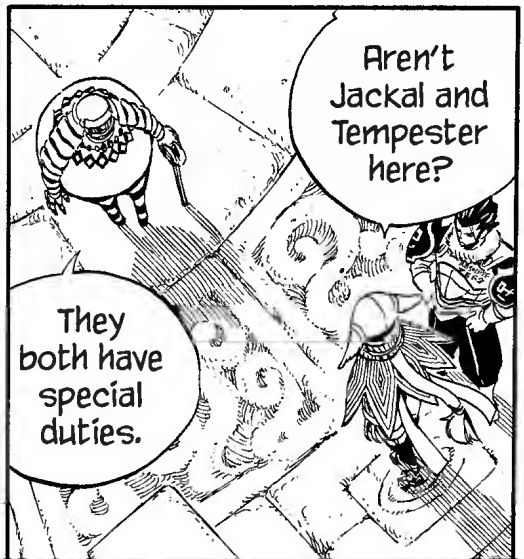
You get nothing unless you release the Seis.
Those are *my* friends.

But, hey...
I guess I'll give you a little freebie.



Is that you, Kyôka? You look as sexy as ever.
It has been a while, Silver.

So you're saying the plan is already in progress?


Aren't Jackal and Tempester here?
They both have special duties.

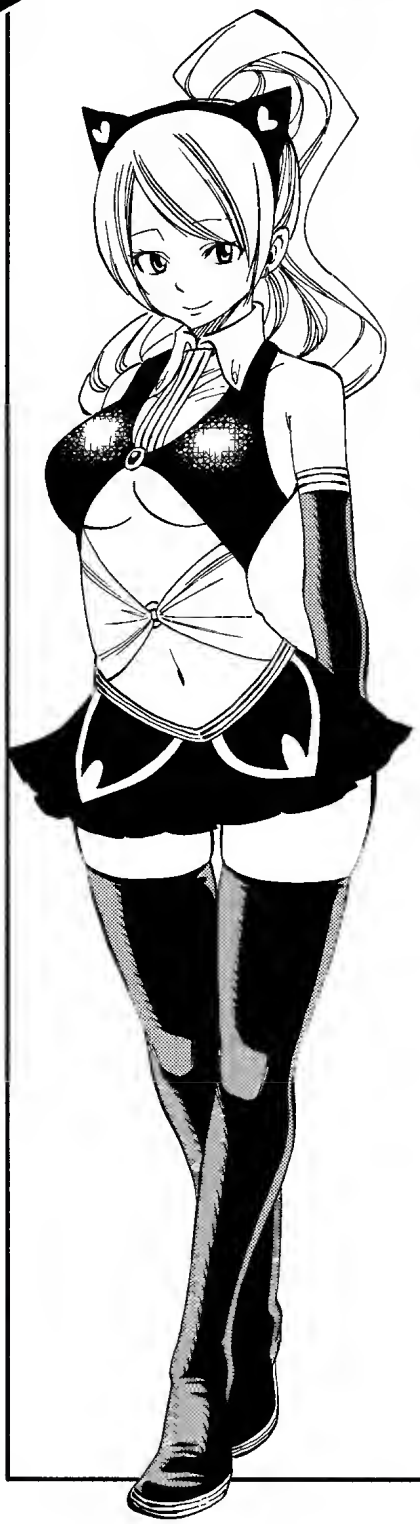
Pretty manly, right? I like it.
It is surprising that you came as a human.
ABSOLUTE ZERO

Very well! We will show the humans the power of the Underworld!
The hell of the Nine Demon Gates of Tartaros!

Not a one of them is human!
Each and every one of 'em is a demon out of the Book of Zeref!

The master's name is E.N.D.!
The worst demon in the whole Book of Zeref!!!

FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 357: The Nine Demon Gates

LAMIA SCALE

Name: Sherry Blendy Age: 24

Magic: Doll Attack

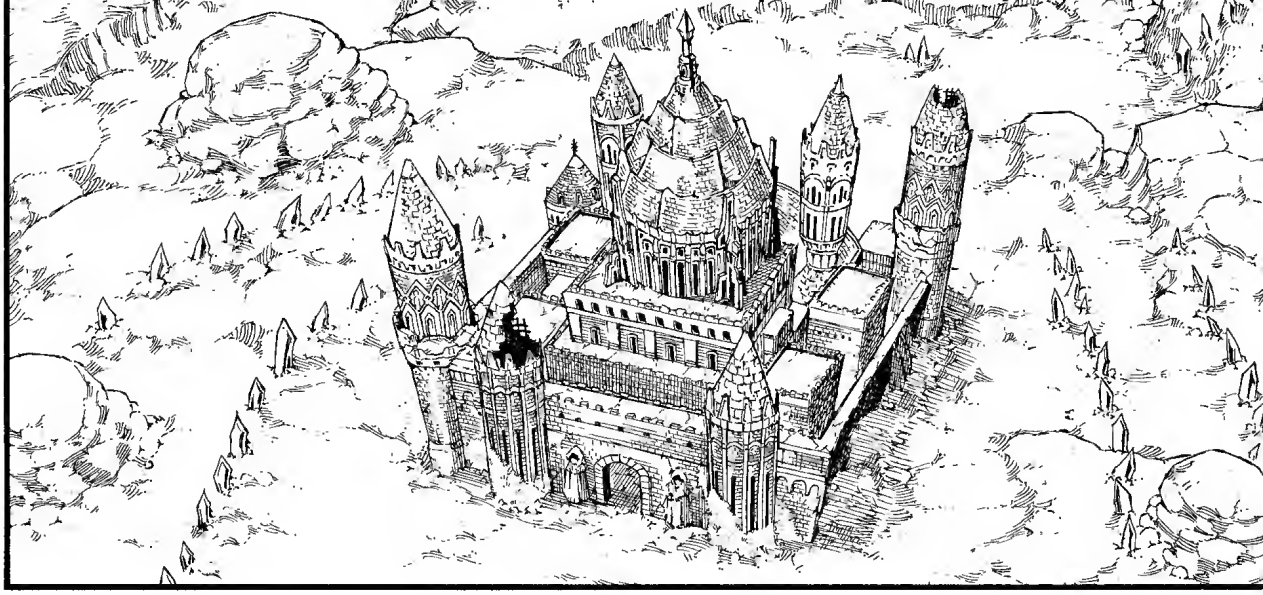
Likes: Love Dislikes: Water

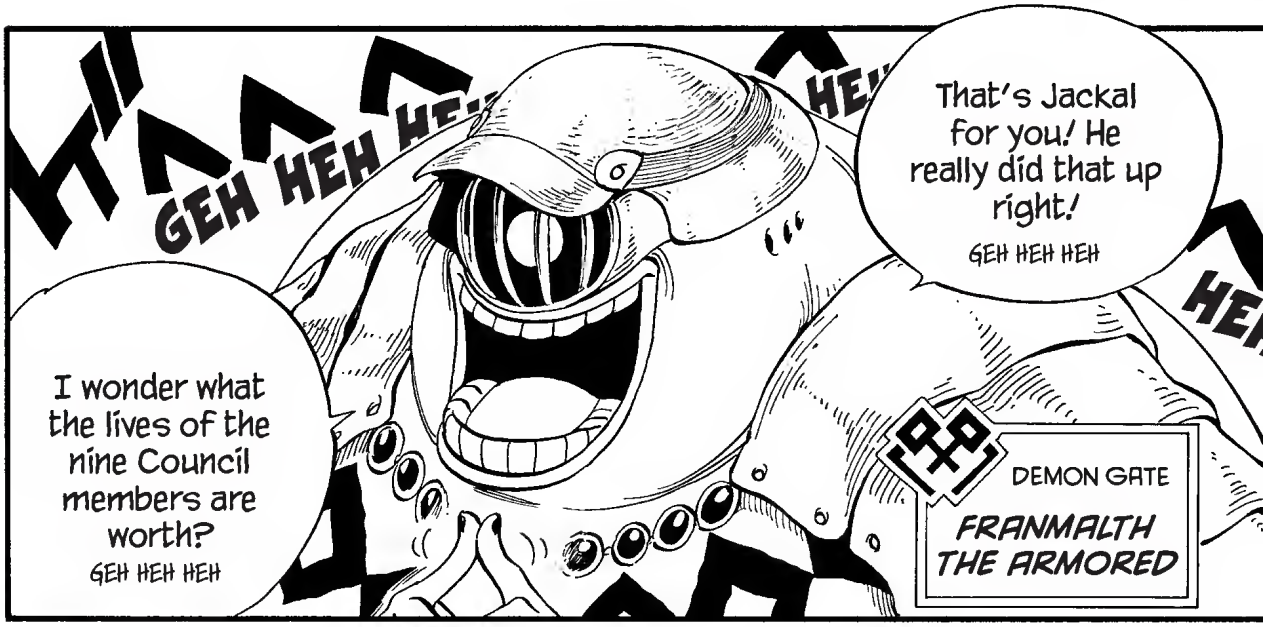
Remarks

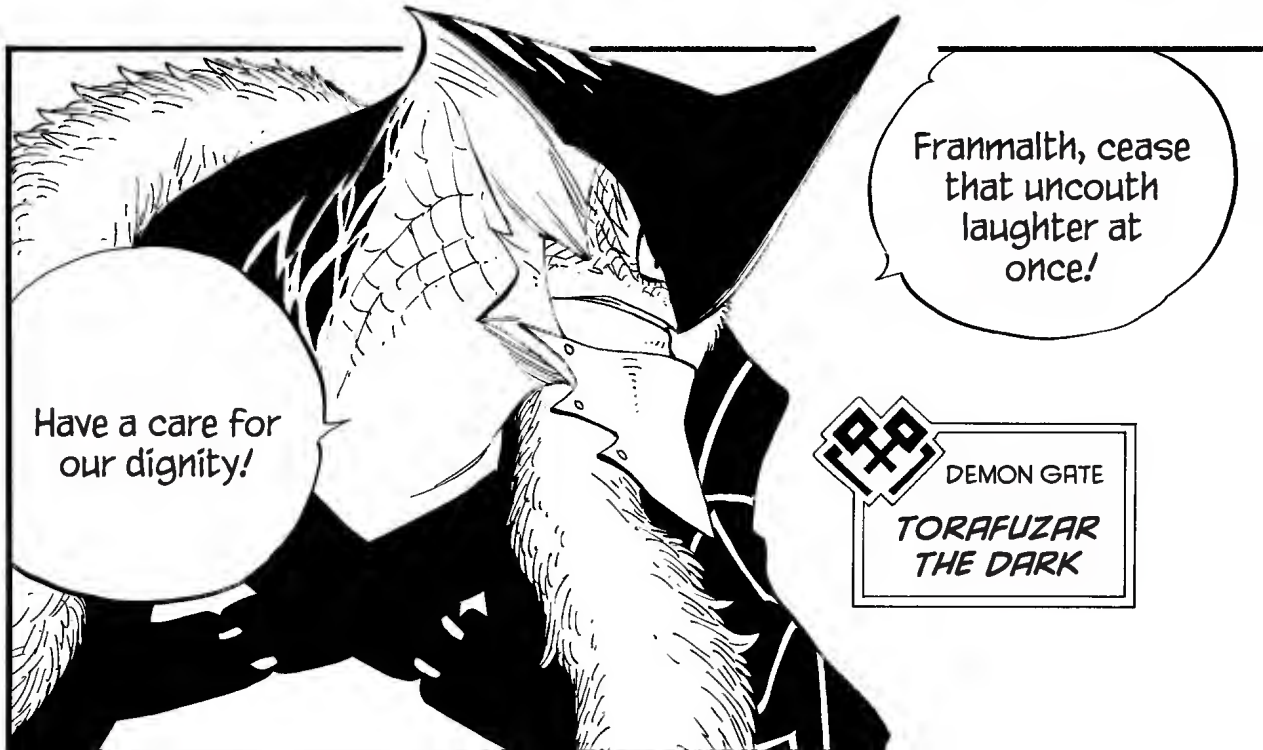
Seven years ago, she fought Lucy on Galuna Island, and was reinstated into Lamia Scale afterward. She met the Blue Pegasus member Ren when fighting for the allied guilds against the Oración Seis, and the two started dating. Now they are engaged.

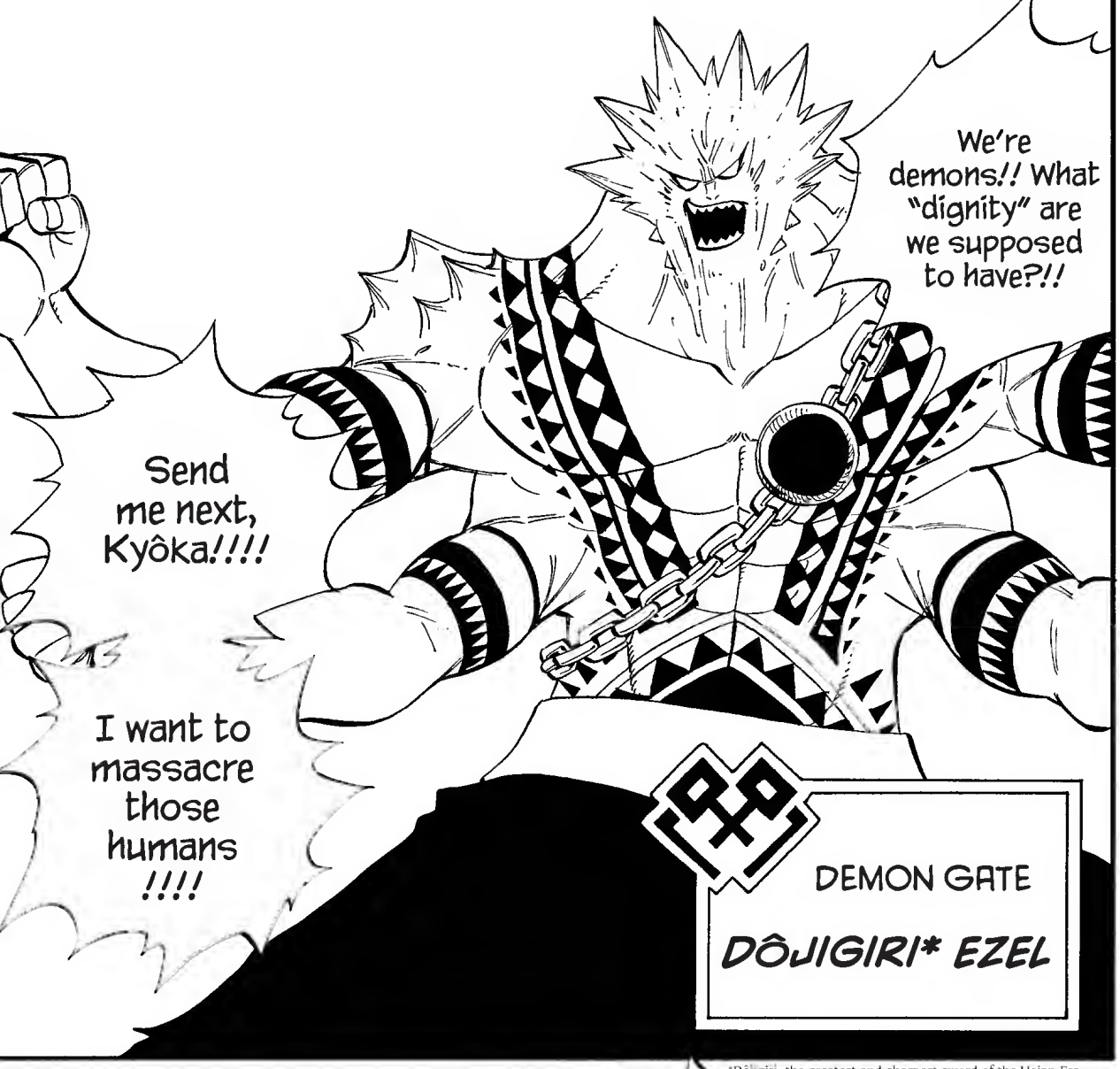
During the Grand Magic Games, she was secretly rooting more for Ren than for her own guild, but when her guild master (Ooba Babasaama) found out, she hit Sherry with her twirl-twirl magic.

She wants to teach her cousin Sherria what true "love" is.

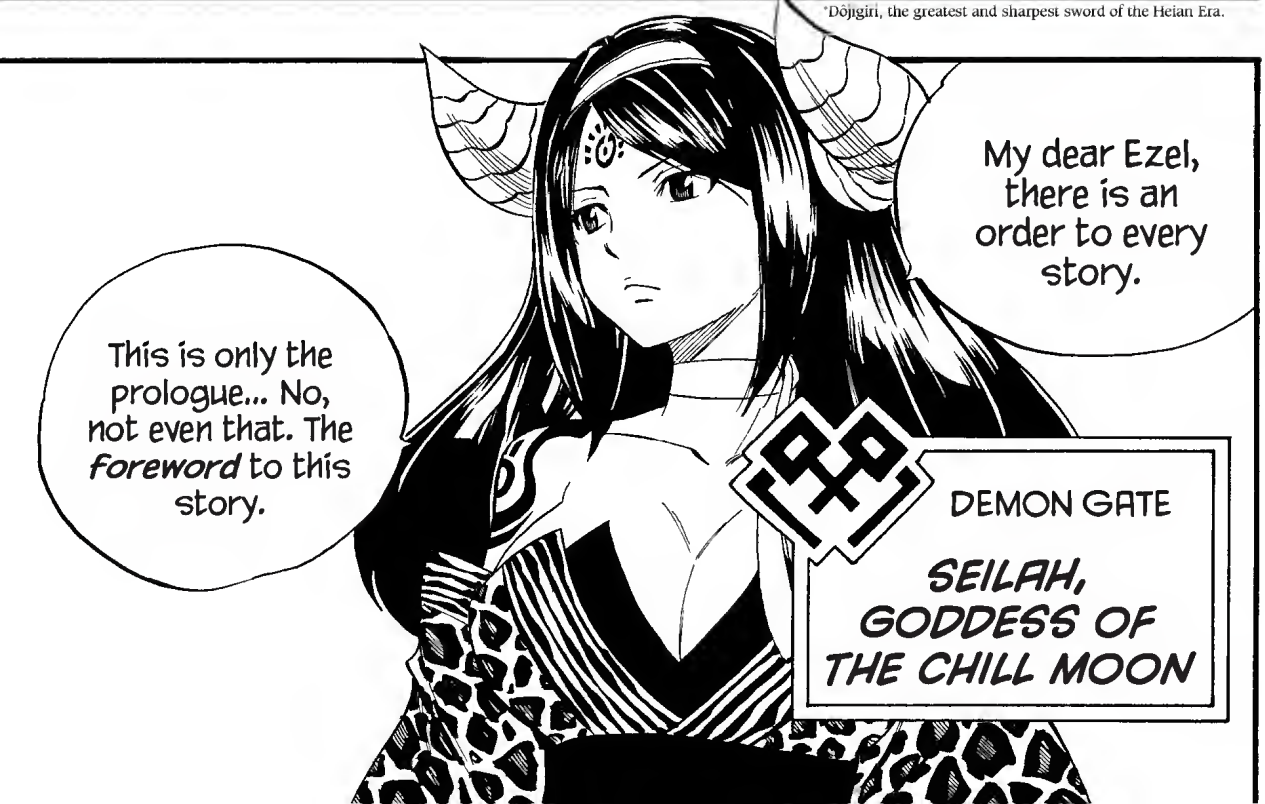


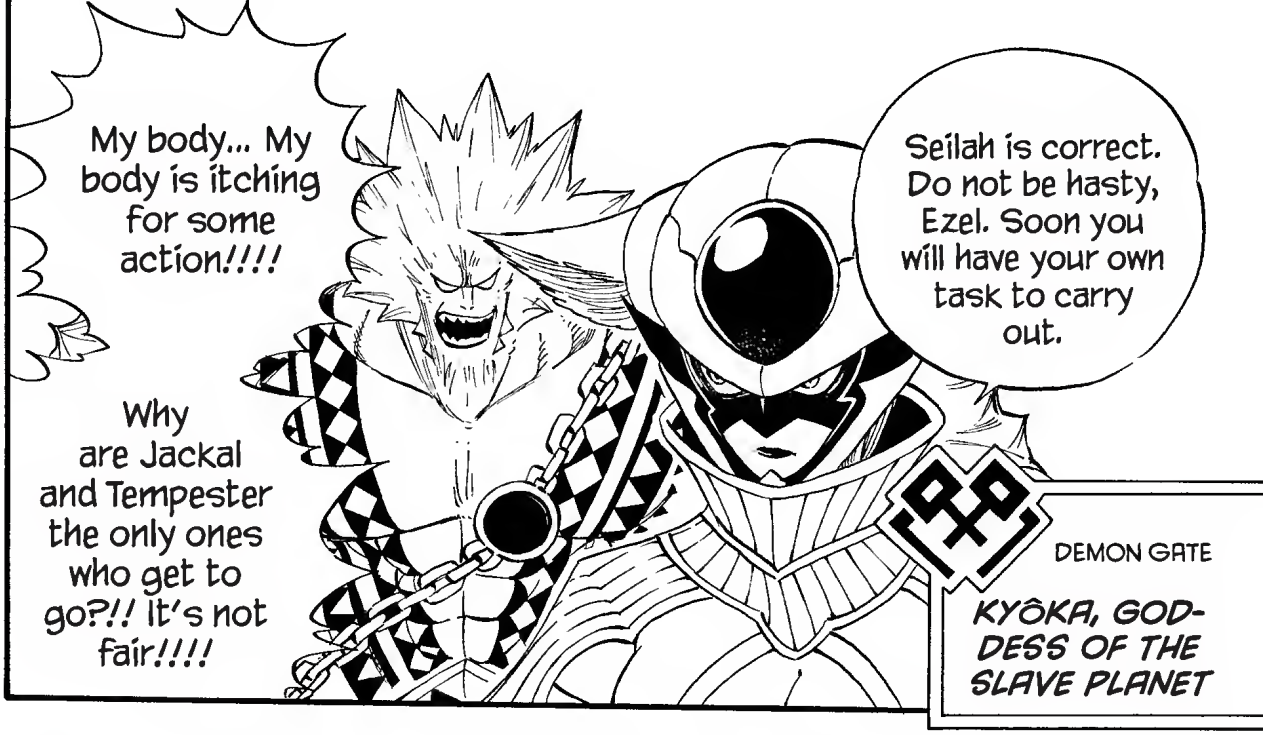

GEH HEH HE...
I wonder what the lives of the nine Council members are worth?
GEH HEH HEH
That's Jackal for you! He really did that up right!
GEH HEH HEH
DEMON GATE
FRANMALTH THE ARMORED

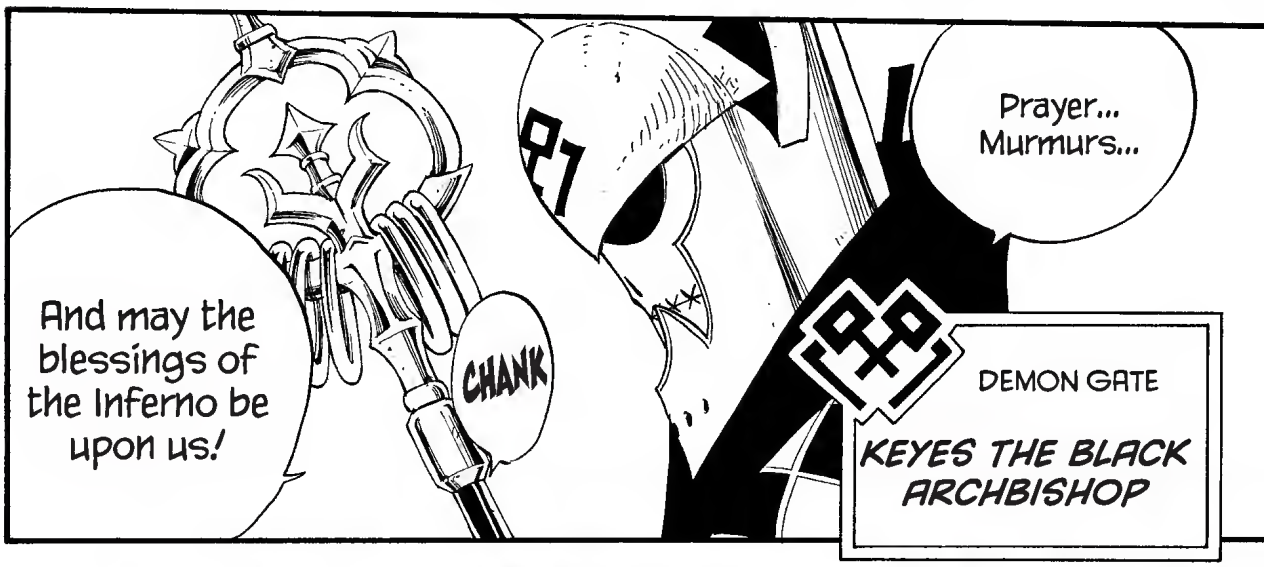

Have a care for our dignity!
Franmalth, cease that uncouth laughter at once!
DEMON GATE
TORAFUZAR THE DARK

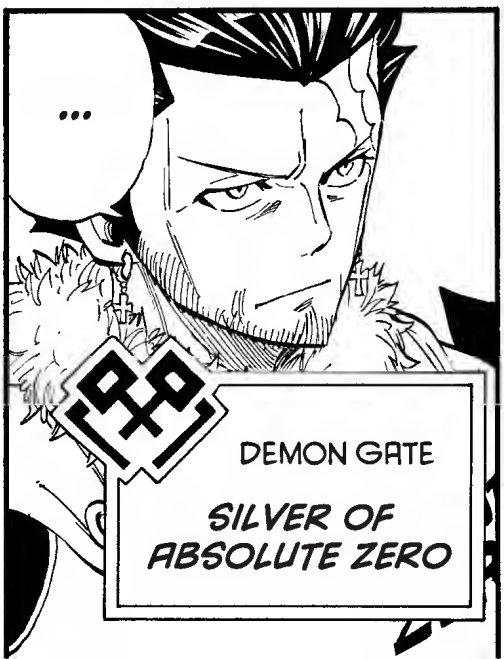


*Dōjigiri, the greatest and sharpest sword of the Heian Era.



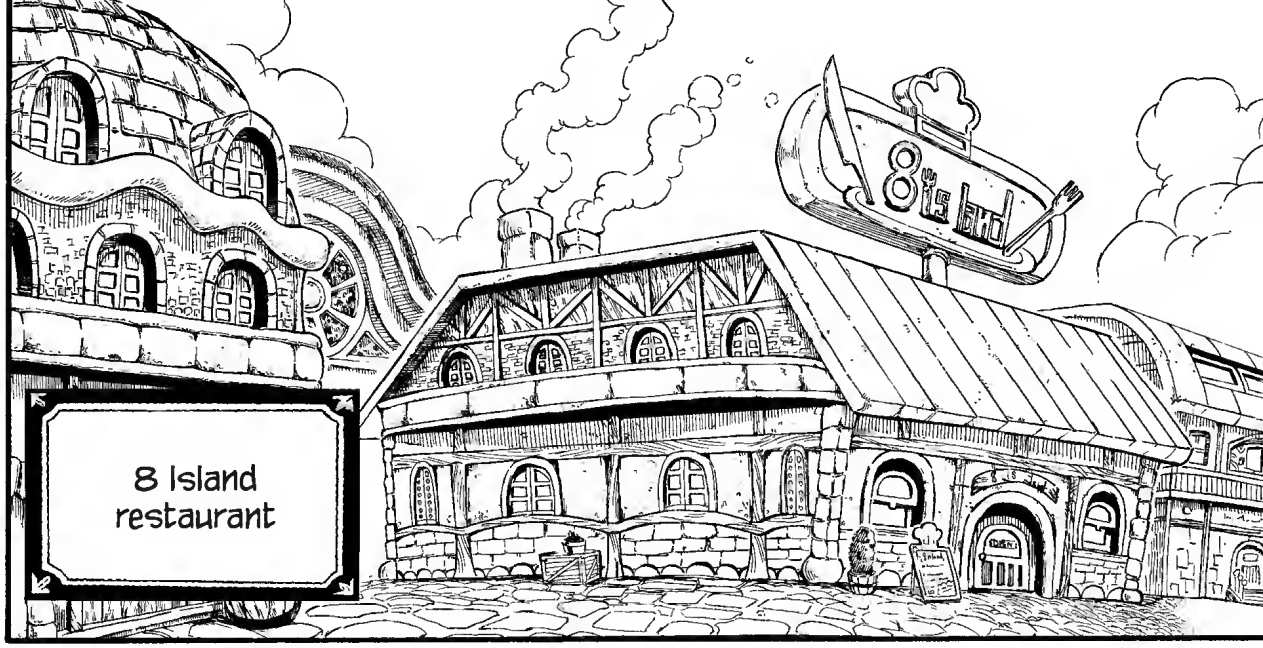

My body... My body is itching for some action!!!!
Why are Jackal and Tempester the only ones who get to go?!! It's not fair!!!!
Seilah is correct. Do not be hasty, Ezel. Soon you will have your own task to carry out.
DEMON GATE
KYÔKA, GODDESS OF THE SLAVE PLANET

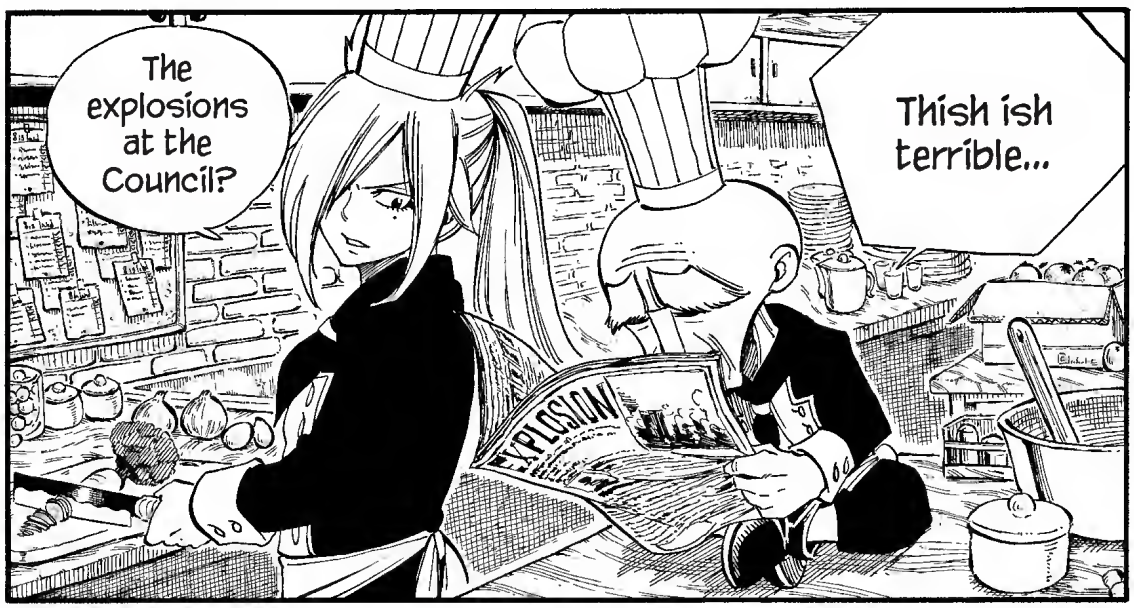

And may the blessings of the Inferno be upon us!
CHANK
Prayer... Murmurs...
DEMON GATE
KEYES THE BLACK ARCHBISHOP


...
DEMON GATE
SILVER OF ABSOLUTE ZERO

This is only the beginning of the hell we shall unleash.

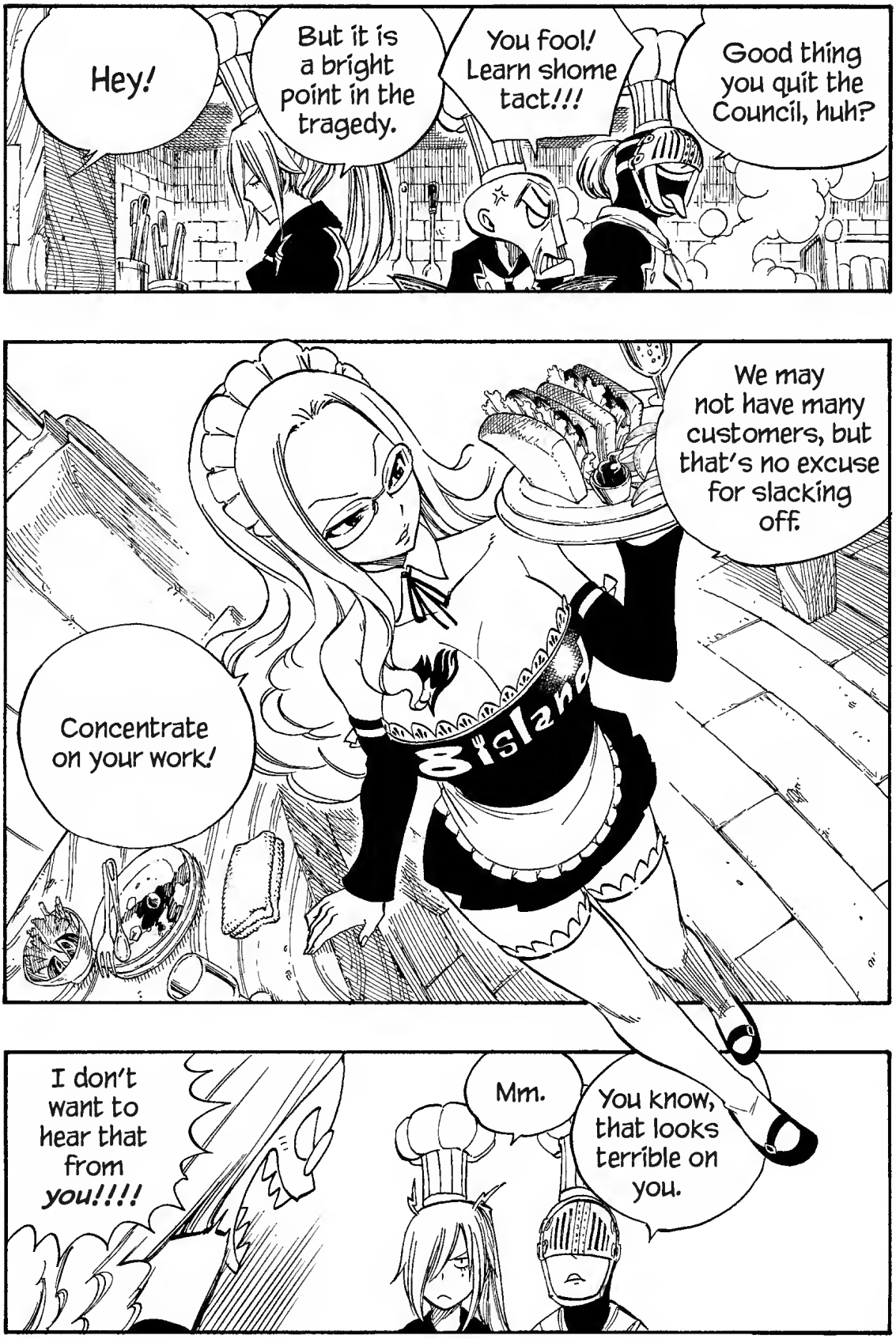
This is all for our master, Zeref!
We demons will bring down a crushing blow on humanity !!!

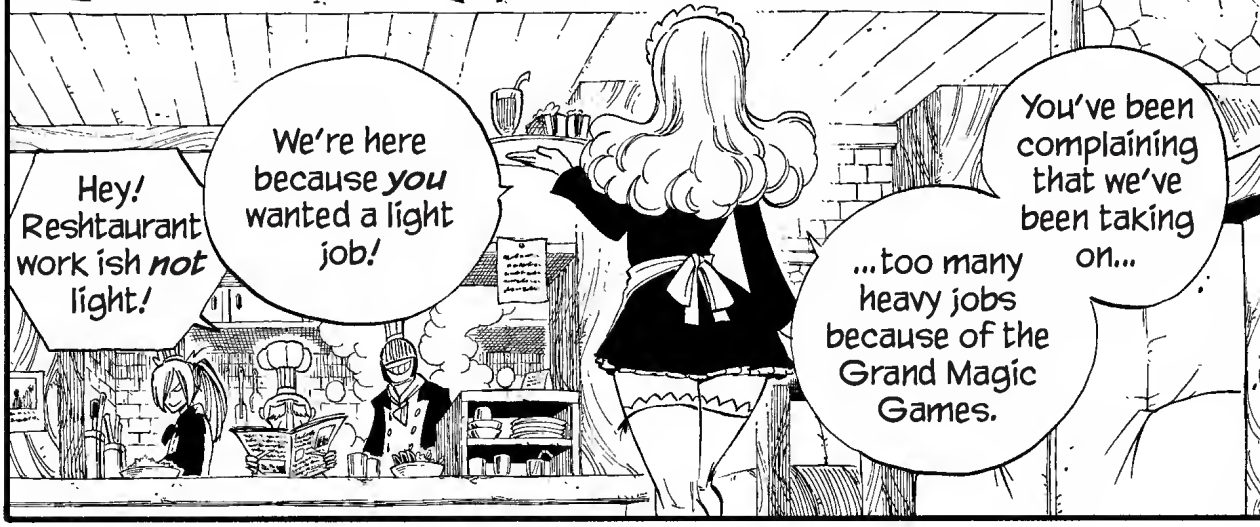

8 Island restaurant

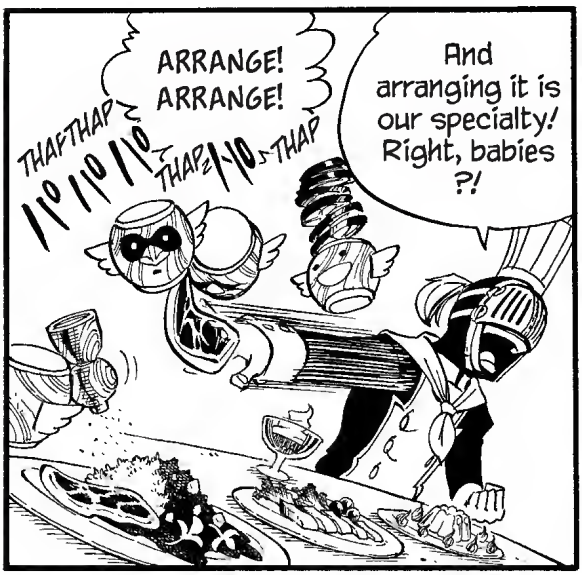

The explosions at the Council?
Thish ish terrible...
EXPLOSION

Thish ish massh murder!
A total of 119 cashalties ...
That ishn't all.

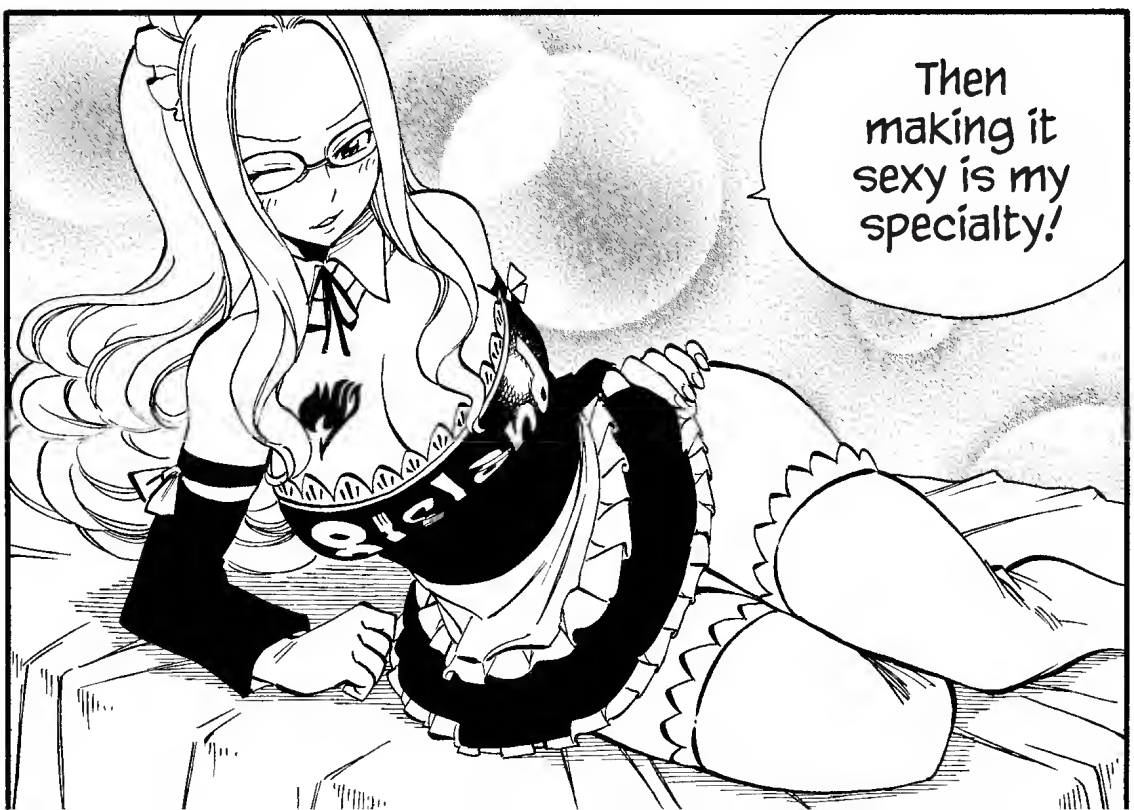
I hear they killed all nine members.


Hey!
But it is a bright point in the tragedy.
You fool! Learn shome tact!!!
Good thing you quit the Council, huh?
We may not have many customers, but that's no excuse for slacking off.
Concentrate on your work!
I don't want to hear that from you!!!!
Mm.
You know, that looks terrible on you.


You've been complaining that we've been taking on...
...too many heavy jobs because of the Grand Magic Games.
We're here because *you* wanted a light job!
Hey! Reshtaurant work ish *not* light!


ARRANGE! ARRANGE!
THAPTHAP
THAP
THAP
And arranging it is our specialty! Right, babies ?!

Still, I feel I have some skill in cooking.
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP


Then making it sexy is my specialty!

Ah... Speak of the devil...
KACHING
Can't even go out shopping... What are we going to do with him?
He probably just got lost.
By the way, isn't Laxus-kun back yet?
SLAM
FWIRL ...
?!

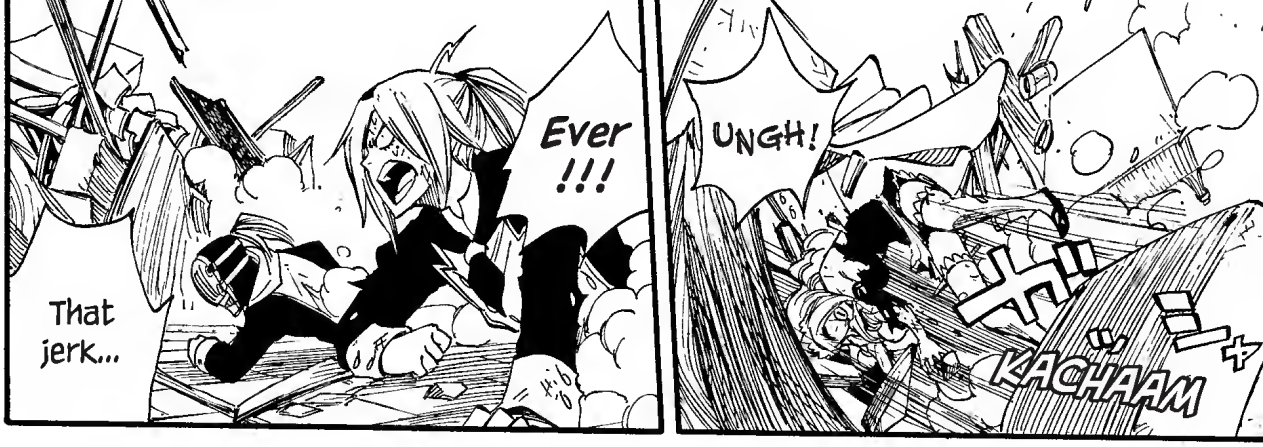
KA
BOOOOM
ナナ

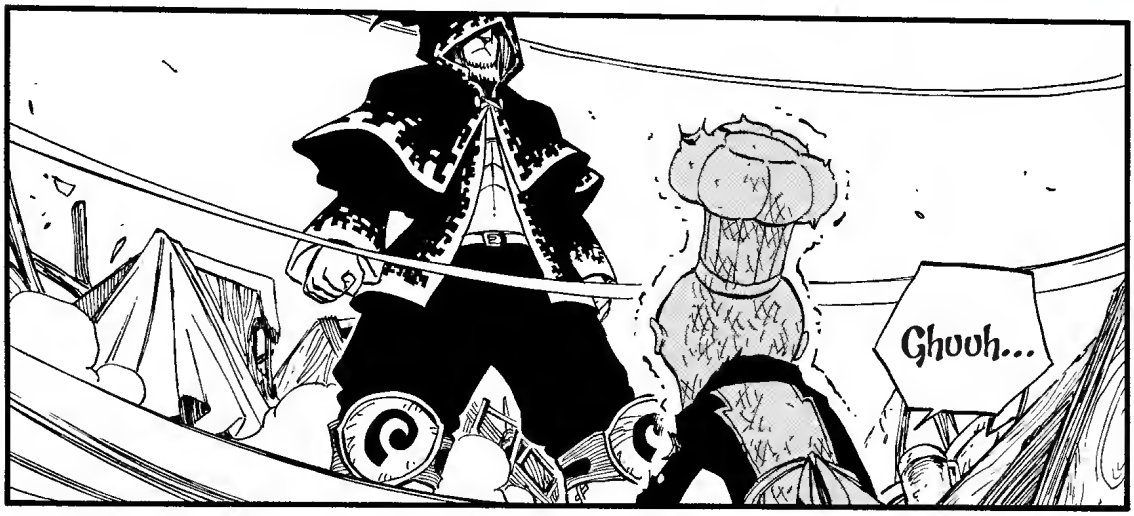
VLUUM VLUUM
BLUSH
Yajima-san!!
Who'sh thish guy?!!
WHOOSH
HYAAAH!

THUD
THUD
DA-DOOM!
GAH !!
Nggaahhh !!!

BHWOO
...
PLUUM
Bad manners, boy!!
BOGOOOOT
GUUU

WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
LEPRECHAUN !!!!
!
FWIRL ...
YYAAA!!!!
KLUM
KLUM
KLUM
KLUM


That jerk...
Ever !!!
UNGH!
KACHAAM


Ghuuh...

Dammit... What is this guy's magic...?
I can't move my body...
I am one of the Nine Demon Gates... I herald calamity for humanity...
I have no name.
Who are you?

The gate to the Underworld is open!
Gugghh!
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
We are delivering mankind's rightful punishment!
Then this creep is...
Tartaros ?!!
The gate to the Under-world...
Yajima-san!!!

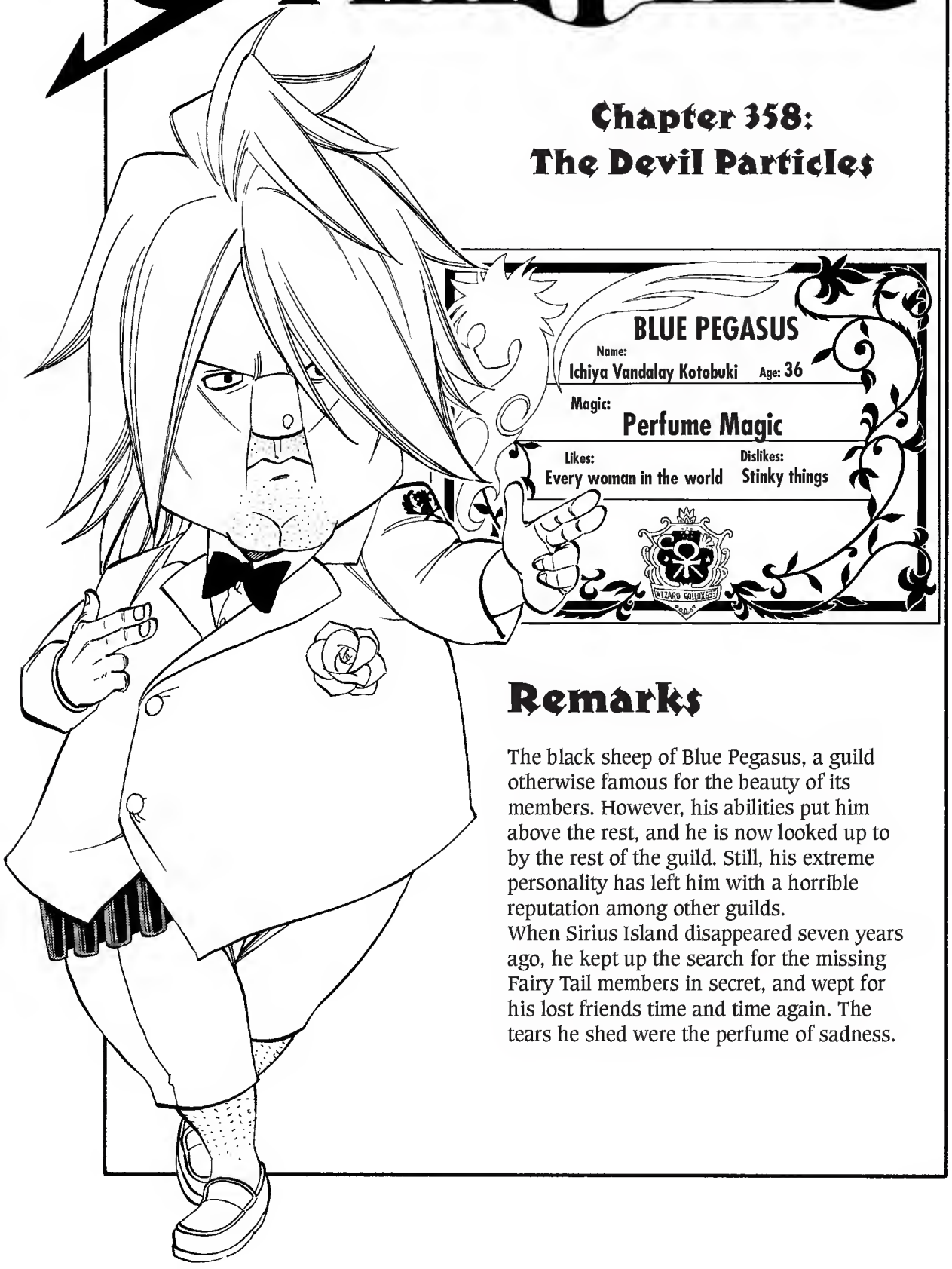
You're not just targeting the Council, you're taking out everyone who was ever a Council member?!!
Nooo !!!!
Fall to...
What are you after ...?!
AAAAAA !!!
...hell!

!!!
Yajima-san!!!
PAMM
I can get lost on the road, but...
WHUMP
UCCHI

...when it comes to killing you...
...I'm right on course!!!

FAIRY TAIL

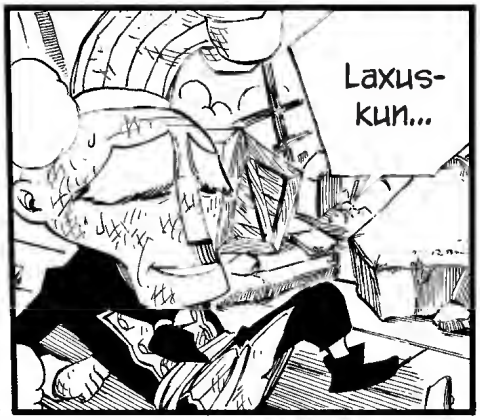
Chapter 358: The Devil Particles

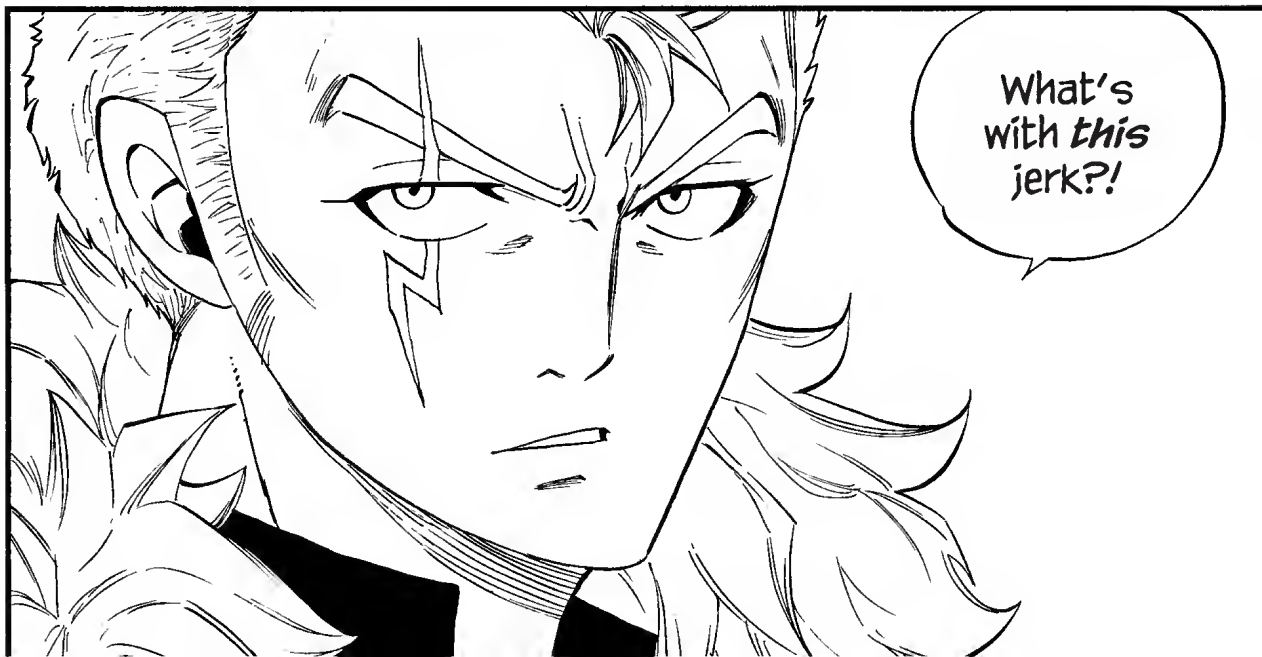


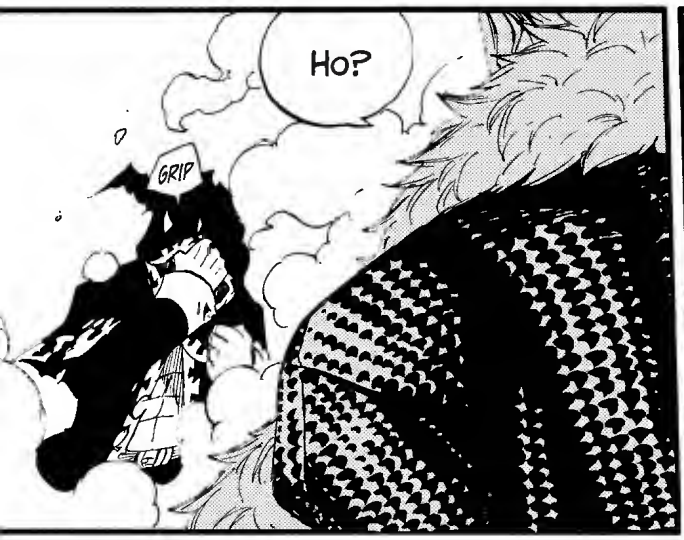
Remarks

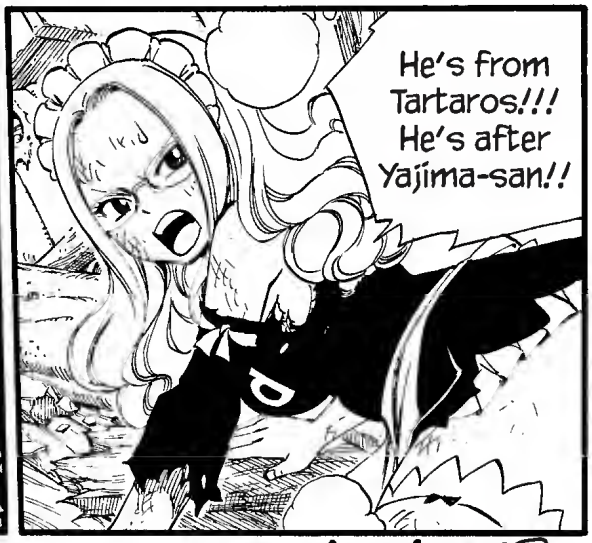
The black sheep of Blue Pegasus, a guild otherwise famous for the beauty of its members. However, his abilities put him above the rest, and he is now looked up to by the rest of the guild. Still, his extreme personality has left him with a horrible reputation among other guilds.
When Sirius Island disappeared seven years ago, he kept up the search for the missing Fairy Tail members in secret, and wept for his lost friends time and time again. The tears he shed were the perfume of sadness.

We're saved!
Heh heh!


Laxus-kun...


What's with *this* jerk?!


Ho?
GRIP


He's from Tartaros!!! He's after Yajima-san!!

!

RIPP
RIPP
RIPP
RIPP
RIPP

HFFF
DEMON GATE
TEMPESTER
THE IMMORTAL
He ain't human ?!

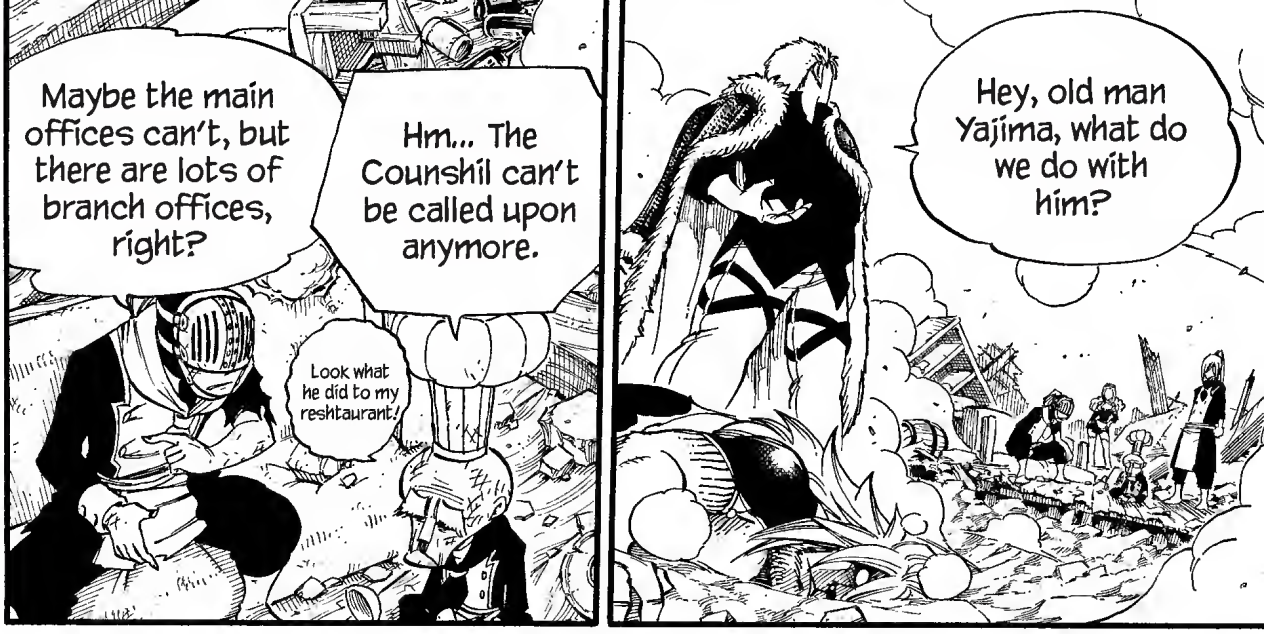
!
VWIRL VWIRL VWIRL
FWIRL
SHUUM
DVOOM
VWIRL
SHEEW

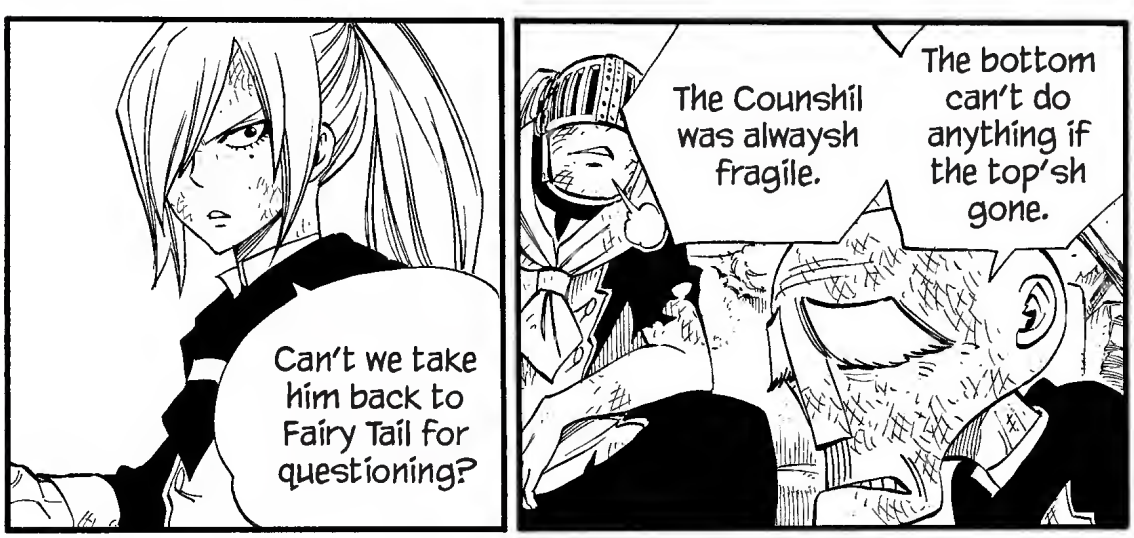
KAWHAAM
SKRRRRCH

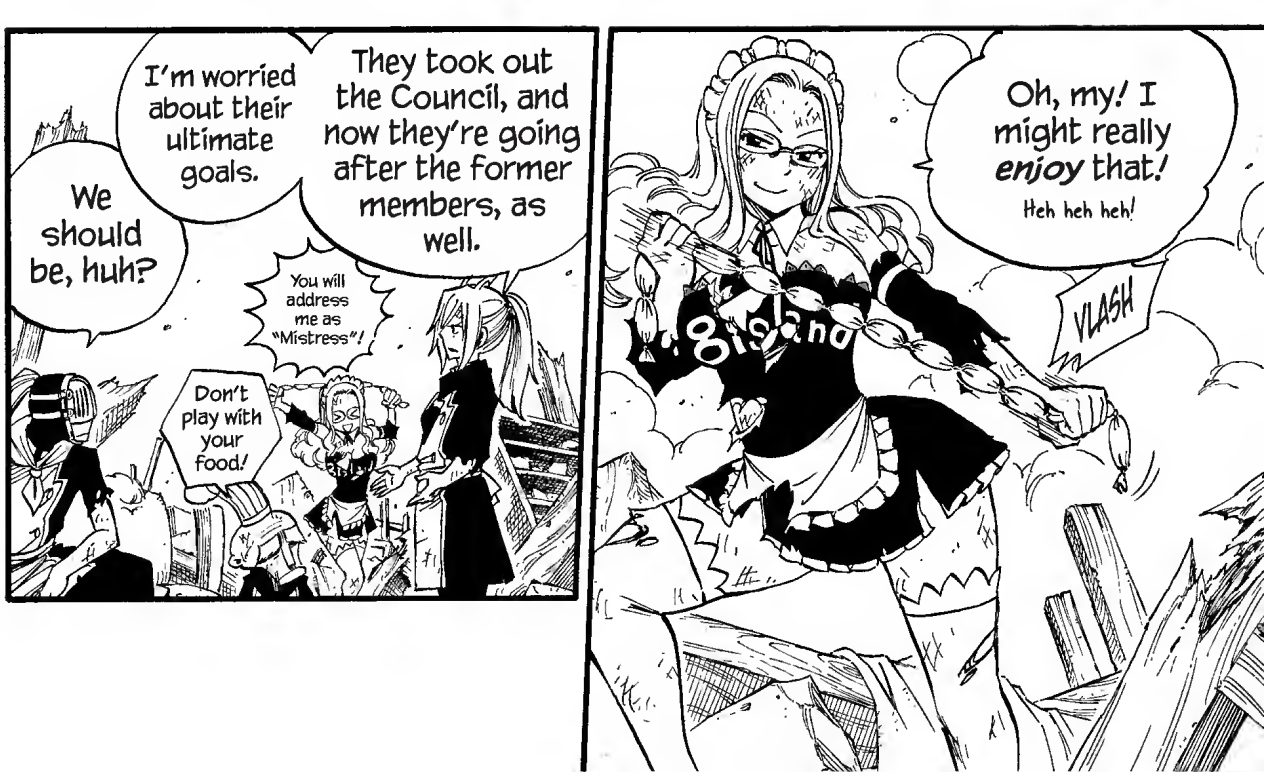
!!
How dare...
You picked the wrong wizards to mess with.

*Thunder Dragon's Jaw

GAIHOOM
AH-CHOO !!
What a man!!
That's our Laxus!!
All right!!


Maybe the main offices can't, but there are lots of branch offices, right?
Hm... The Counshil can't be called upon anymore.
Look what he did to my reshtaurant!
Hey, old man Yajima, what do we do with him?

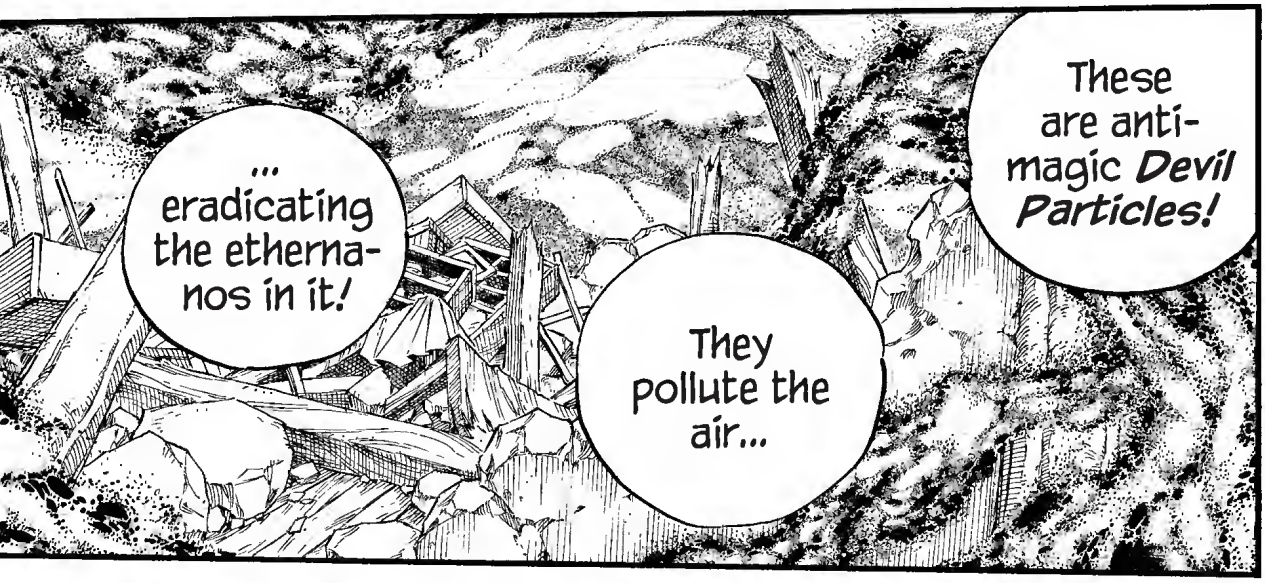

Can't we take him back to Fairy Tail for questioning?
The Counshil was alwaysh fragile.
The bottom can't do anything if the top'sh gone.


We should be, huh?
I'm worried about their ultimate goals.
They took out the Council, and now they're going after the former members, as well.
You will address me as "Mistress"!
Don't play with your food!
Oh, my! I might really *enjoy* that!
Heh heh heh!
VLASH

I underestimated you. I didn't think a mere human could be that strong.
I've taken more damage than I expected.
!
Fairy Tail...
... Is that it?
Perhaps I should go ahead and die.
I think you'll find that it is *you*...
...who chose the wrong opponent to "mess with," as you put it, human.
Die?
What're you talking about?

POWH
What hap-pened?!!
He blew himself up?!!
!!

Mankind cannot defeat this malady!
?!!
WHOOOHH
It's spreading quick!!!
What is this black mist?!


... eradicating the etherna-nos in it!
They pollute the air...
These are anti-magic *Devil Particles!*

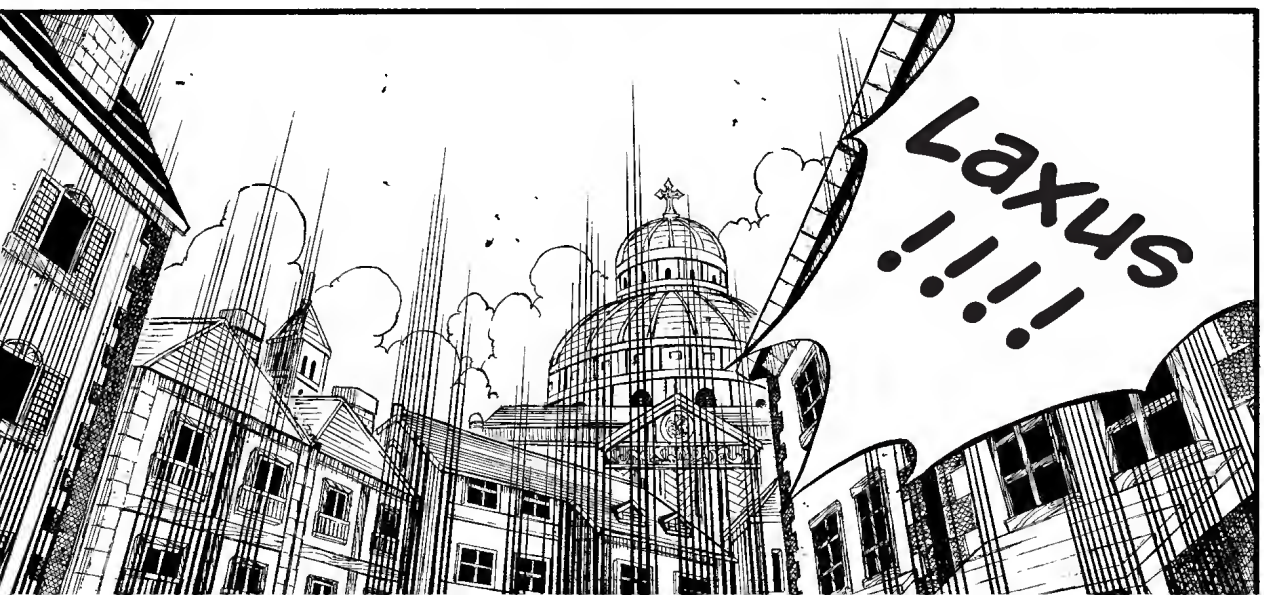
What you are feeling is magic anemia...
...the onset of Magic Deficiency Disease!
GAHH!
KOFF
They create an anti-ethernano zone?

My one weakness is that I cannot regenerate my body until I return to our main guild hall.
AAARGH!
This disease is fatal to wizards.
Guh!
Urg...
You are as good as dead now. Perhaps we will meet again one day... in the Underworld!
.....
!!!!
FWAAAAHH

All we can do now ish run!! Get away from the misht!!!
The whole town will be polluted!
If we don't do something, we'll all...
Don't breathe it in!!!
...an...
WHUD
Yajima-s...
WHUMP
UNGH!
Laxus, cover your mouth!!!
Nobody dies here!!!
I won't let anybody die!!!
Get up!!!
Ever !!!
Bickslow !!!

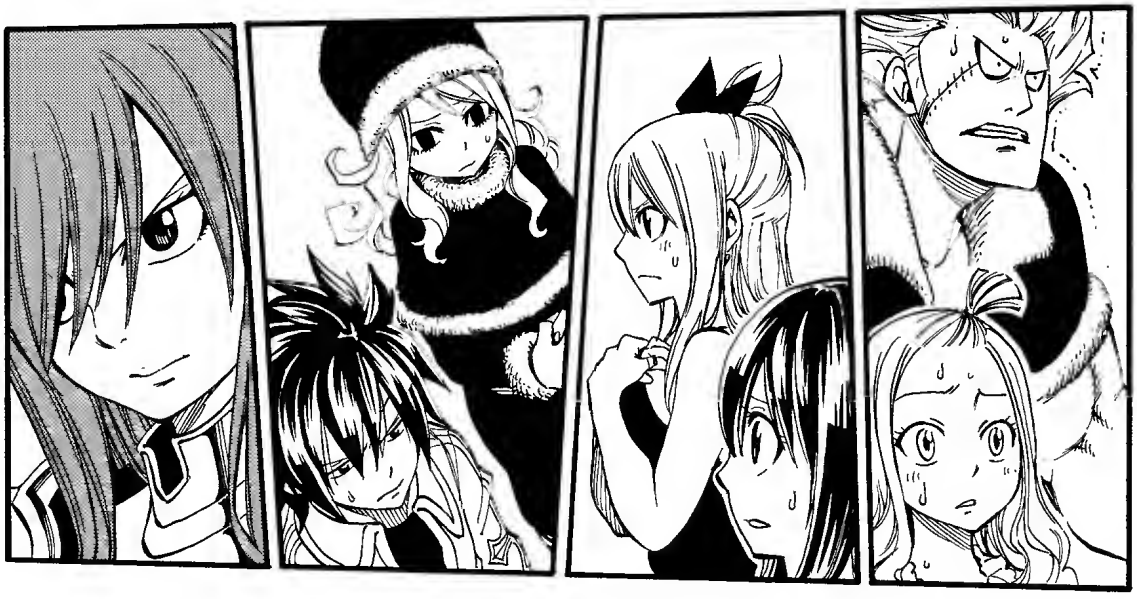
SWOOOOHHHHHHHH
I'm gonna suck up all this crap!!!
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
Us dragon slayers got kinda special lungs.
Don't even try it...
Stop...

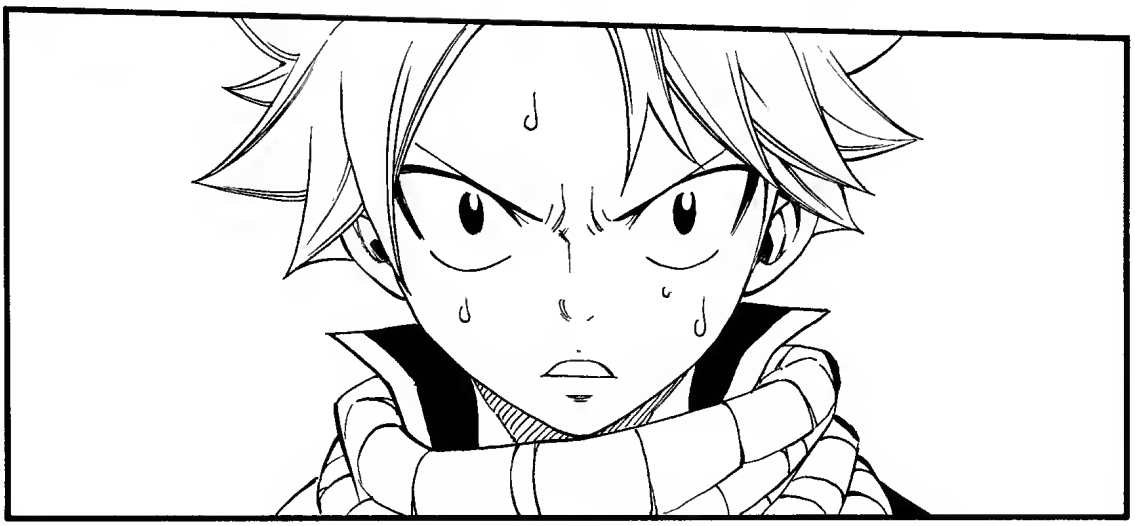
Your job is to get them all home!!!!
Don't let me down !!!!

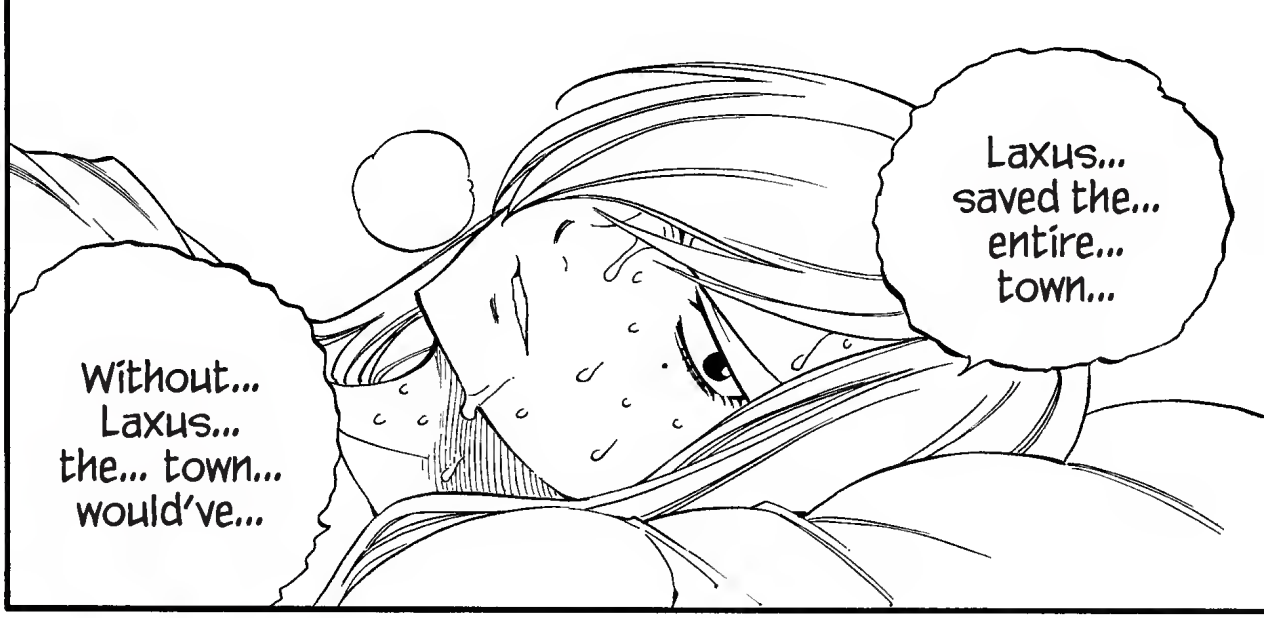

Laxus !!!!

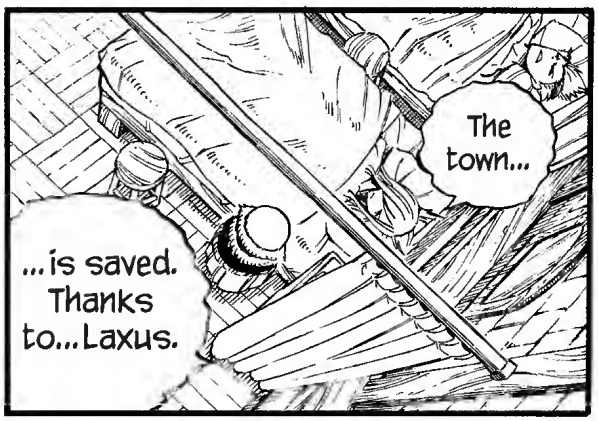
FAIRY TAIL
TELL ME!!!!
Porlyusica!!!! How are Laxus and the others?!! Will they be all right?!!
FAIRY TAIL'S MEDICAL ADVISOR
PORLYUSICA
They're alive...
...but they've been infected with Devil Particles.

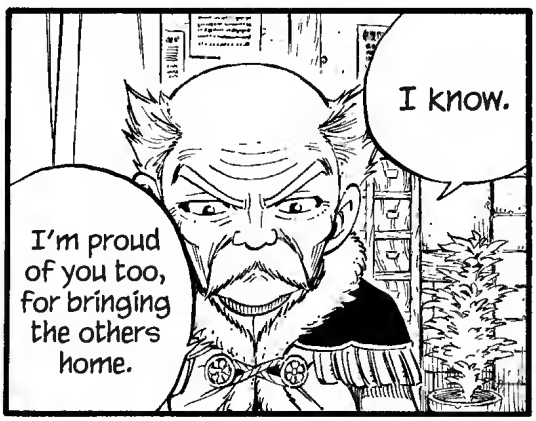
But Laxus's infection is especially grave.
It's a poison which can be fatal even in very small quantities.
So I cannot say whether they will make full recoveries or not...
I'm surprised he's even alive.






Laxus... saved the... entire... town...
Without... Laxus... the... town... would've...

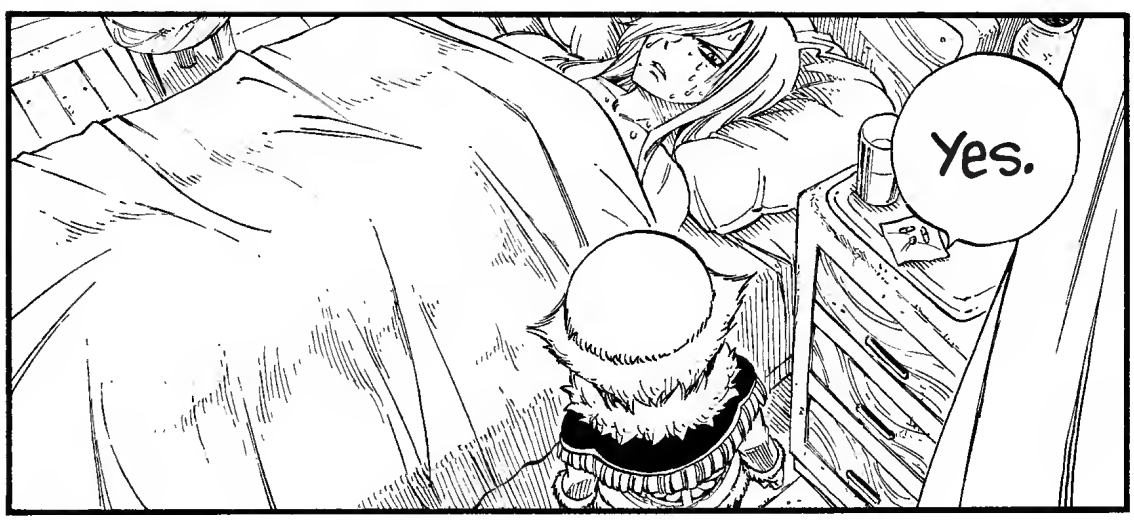

The town...
...is saved. Thanks to...Laxus.

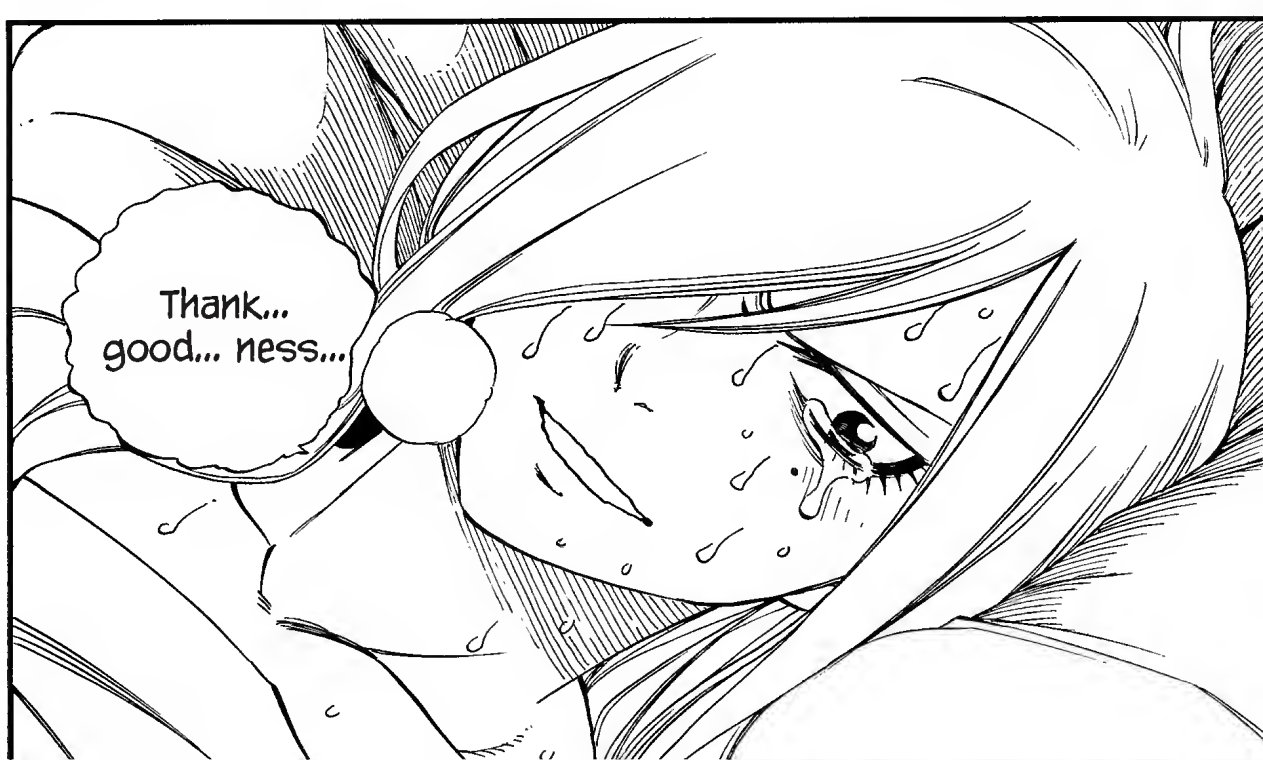

I know.
I'm proud of you too, for bringing the others home.

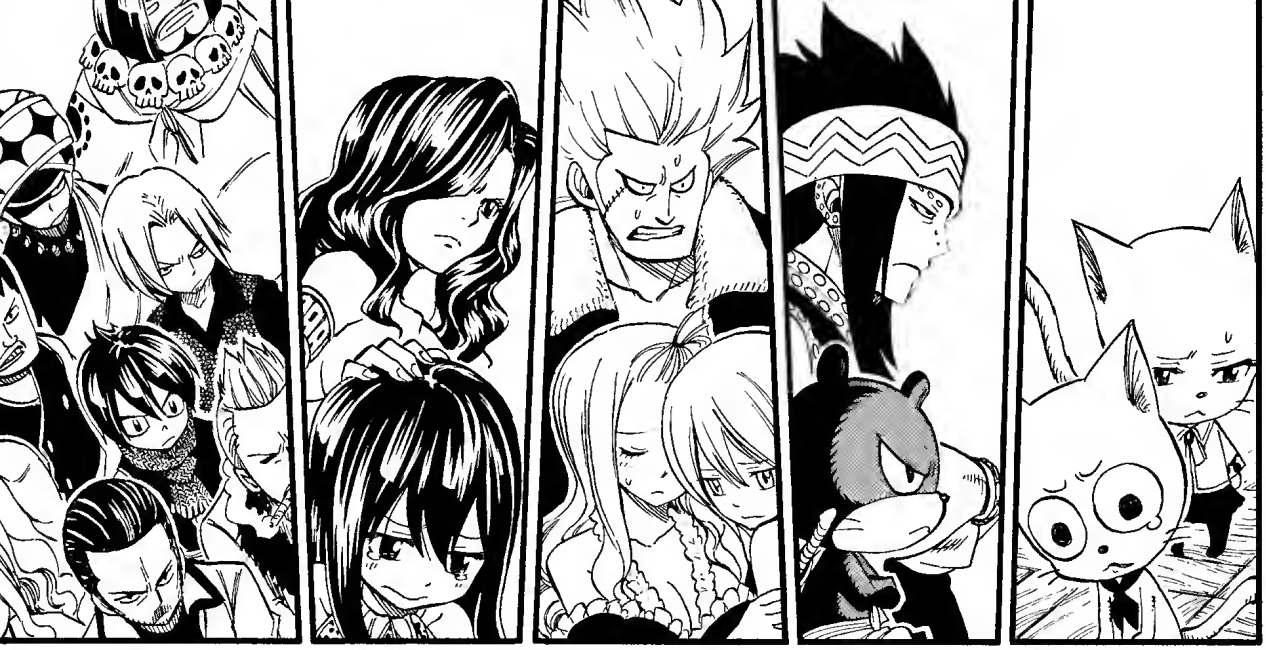
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT

We've got heavy pollution in the western district! We have to enlarge the evacuation zone!!!
It is contaminated with Devil Particles!
Do not approach the town !!!
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
We've found four more victims!
This puts the fatality count over a hundred!!
Who'd have thought this would even affect people without any magic...?
CHATTER
CHATTER
What in the world happened here?!!

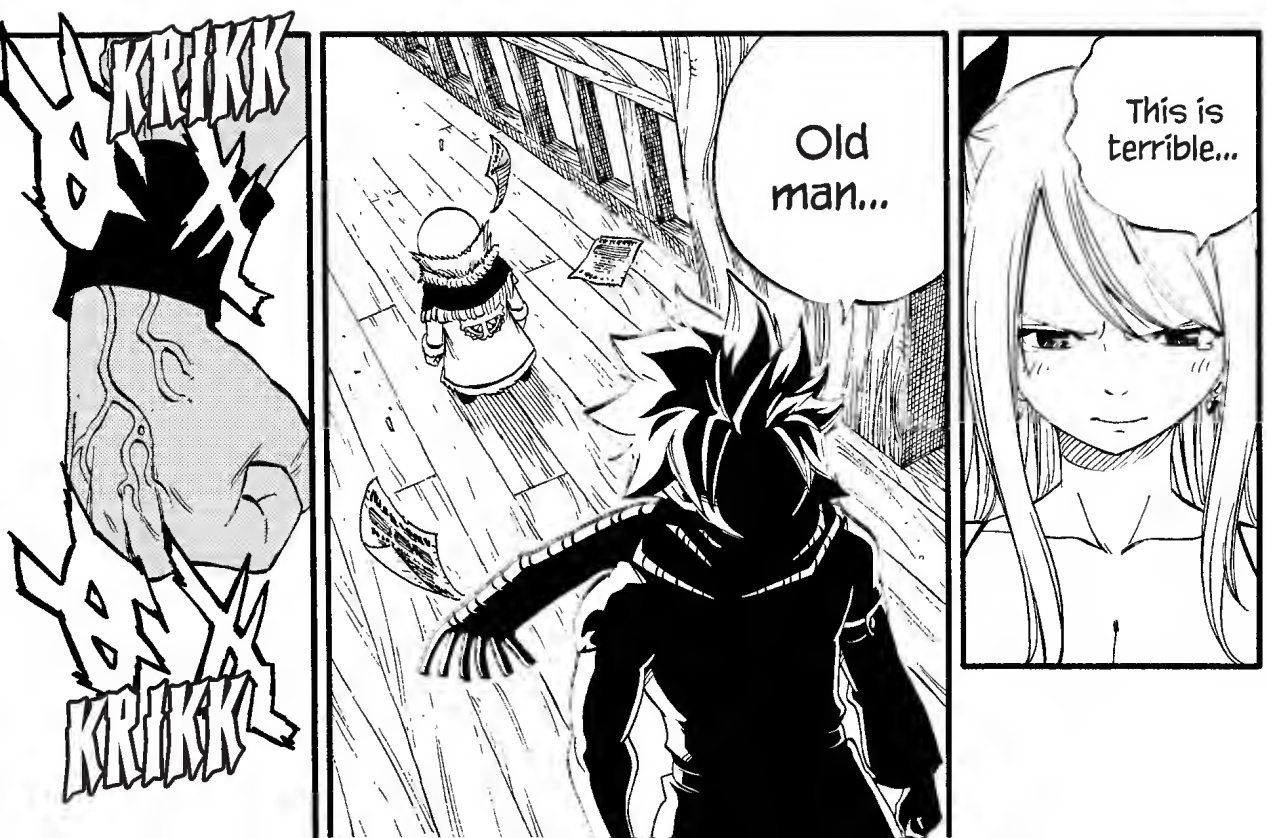
The people... are all safe...?


Yes.


Thank... good... ness...



If all the former Council members are targets ...
...that includes Jellal, doesn't it?
Tartaros ...


KRIKK
KRIKK
Old man...
This is terrible...

This is war !!!!

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 359: Fairies vs. the Underworld

BLUE PEGASUS

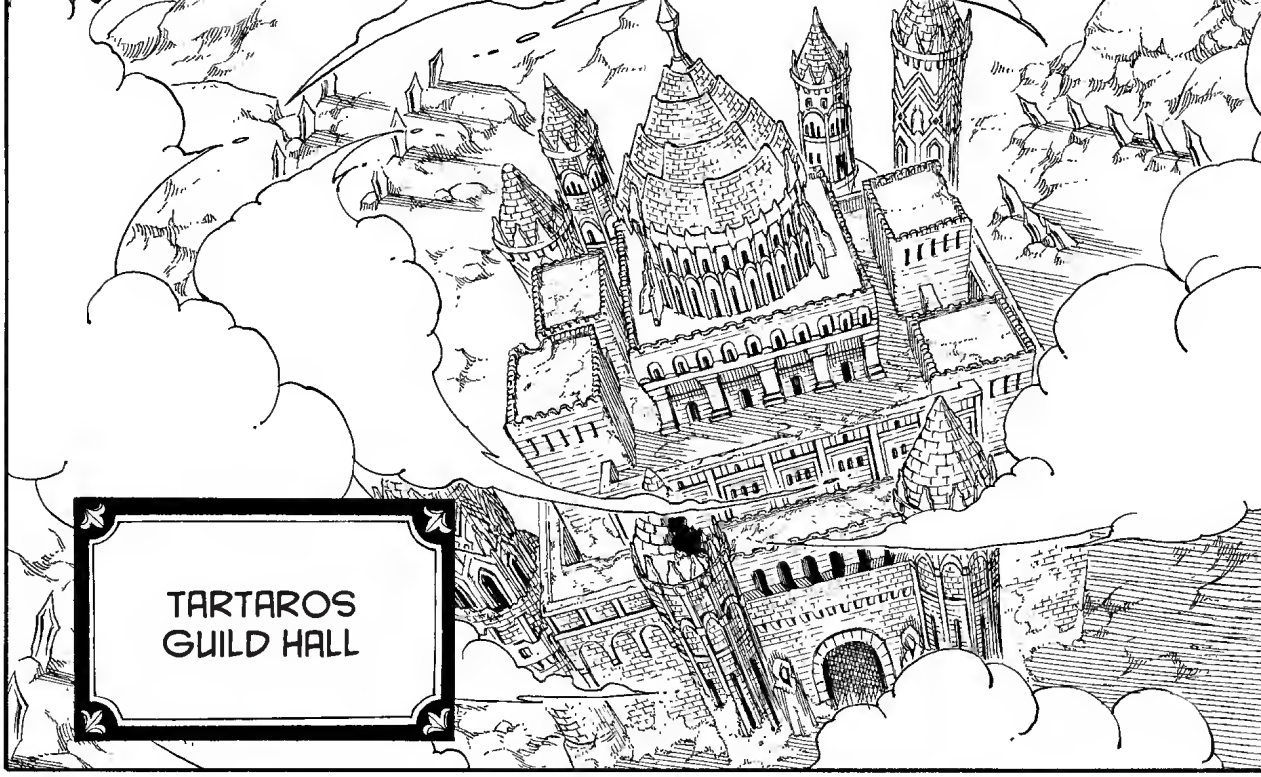
Name: Hibiki Letis **Age:** 36

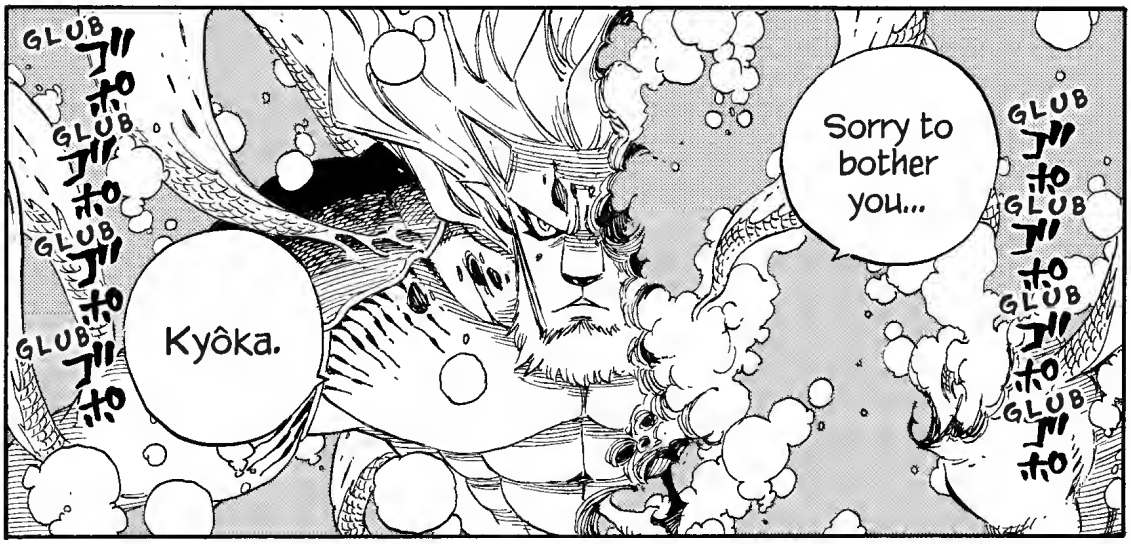
Magic: Archive

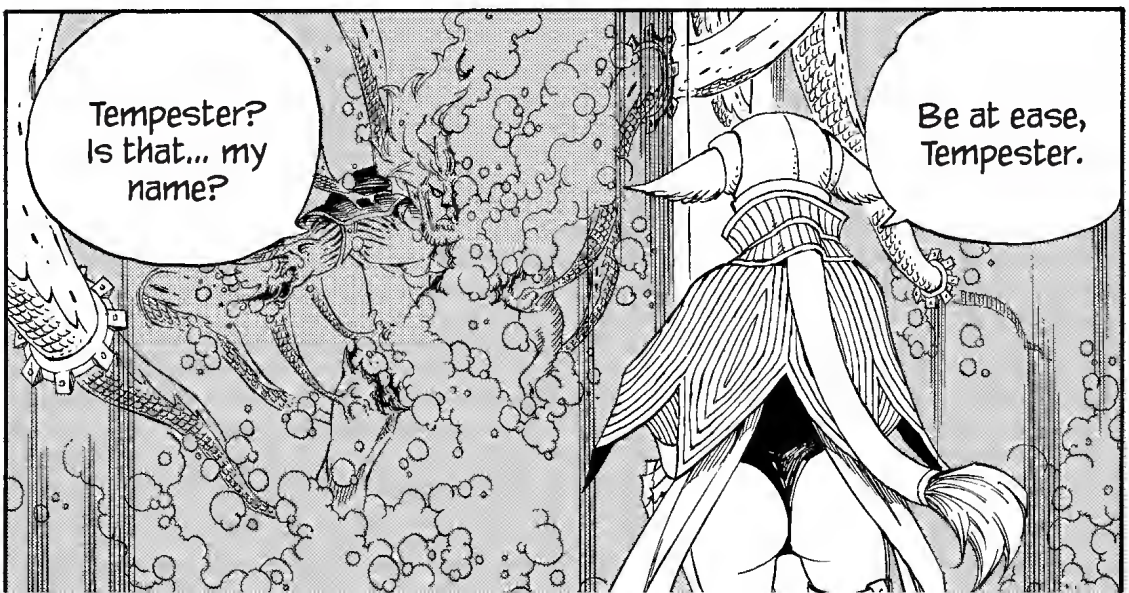
Likes: All women **Dislikes:** Bugs

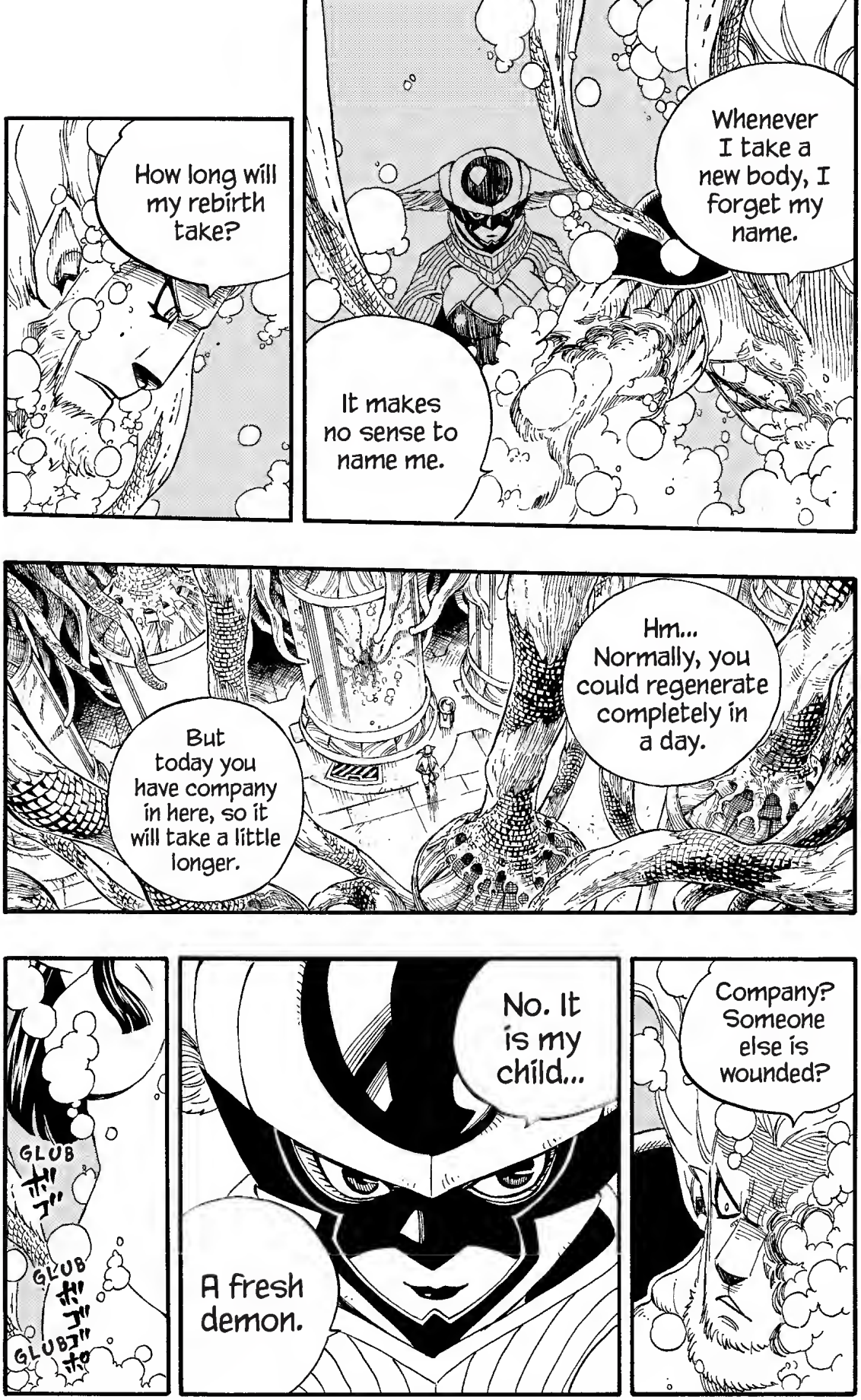
Remarks

He's held the top spot in the Weekly Sorcerer list of "Wizards I'd Like to Be My Boyfriend" for seven years running. He always has a number of girlfriends on hand, and none of them serious, but the editorial department of Weekly Sorcerer speculates that Jenny of Blue Pegasus is the one he truly loves. Over the past seven years, his speed with his Archive information retrieval has greatly increased. Recently, he's been working on miniaturizing his system.

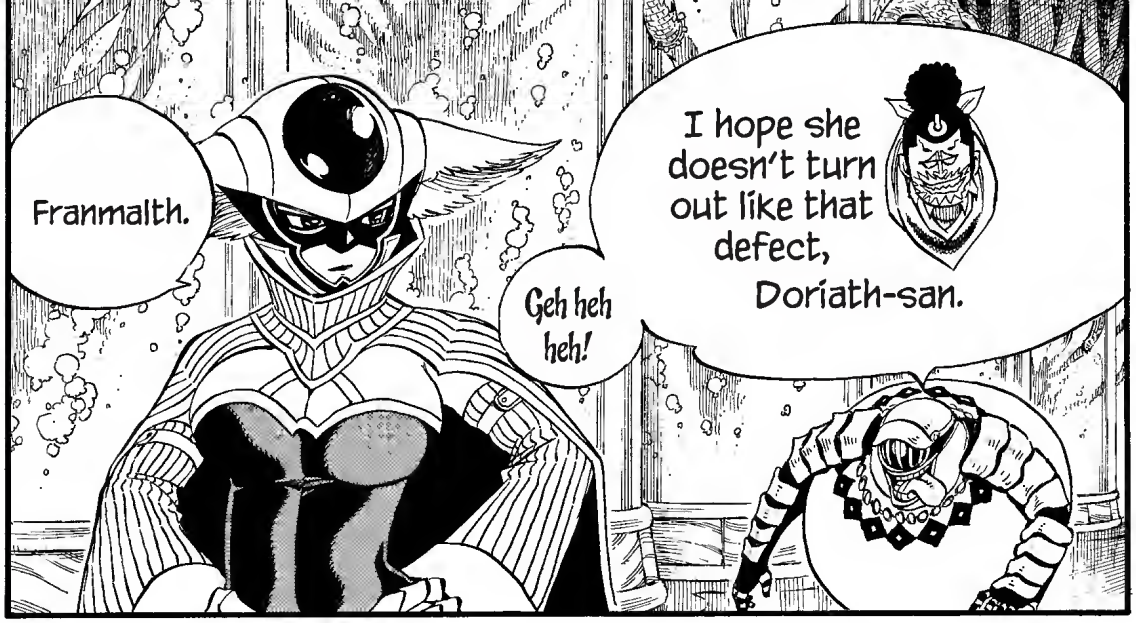

TARTAROS
GUILD HALL


GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
Kyôka.
Sorry to bother you...
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ

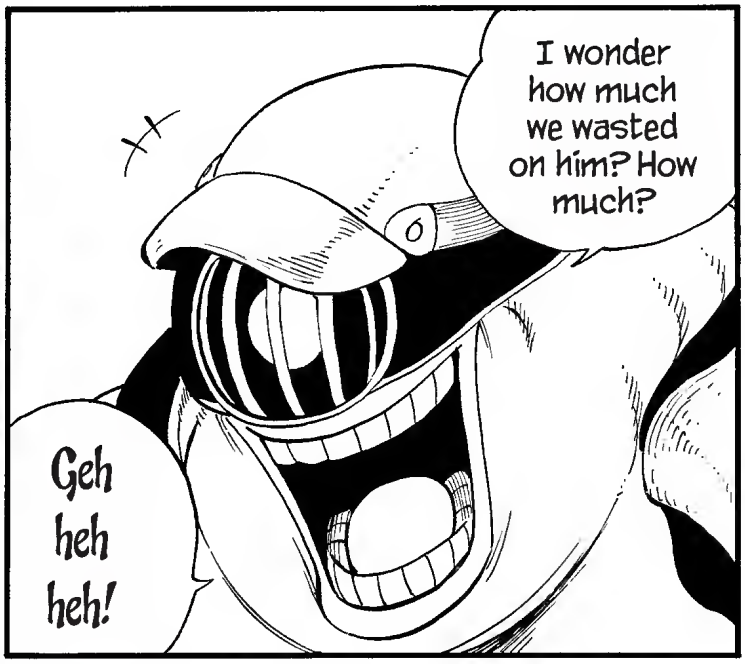

Tempester? Is that... my name?
Be at ease, Tempester.

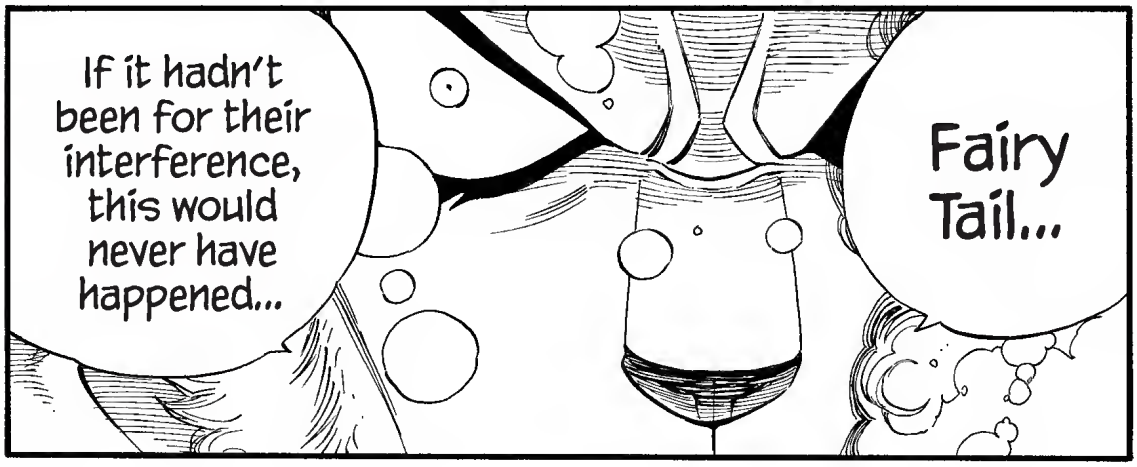

How long will my rebirth take?
It makes no sense to name me.
Whenever I take a new body, I forget my name.
But today you have company in here, so it will take a little longer.
Hm... Normally, you could regenerate completely in a day.
GLUB ボゴ
GLUB ボゴ
GLUB ボゴ
A fresh demon.
No. It is my child...
Company? Someone else is wounded?

MINERVA...
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
...has the potential to become one of us.


Franmalth.
Geh heh heh!
I hope she doesn't turn out like that defect, Doriath-san.

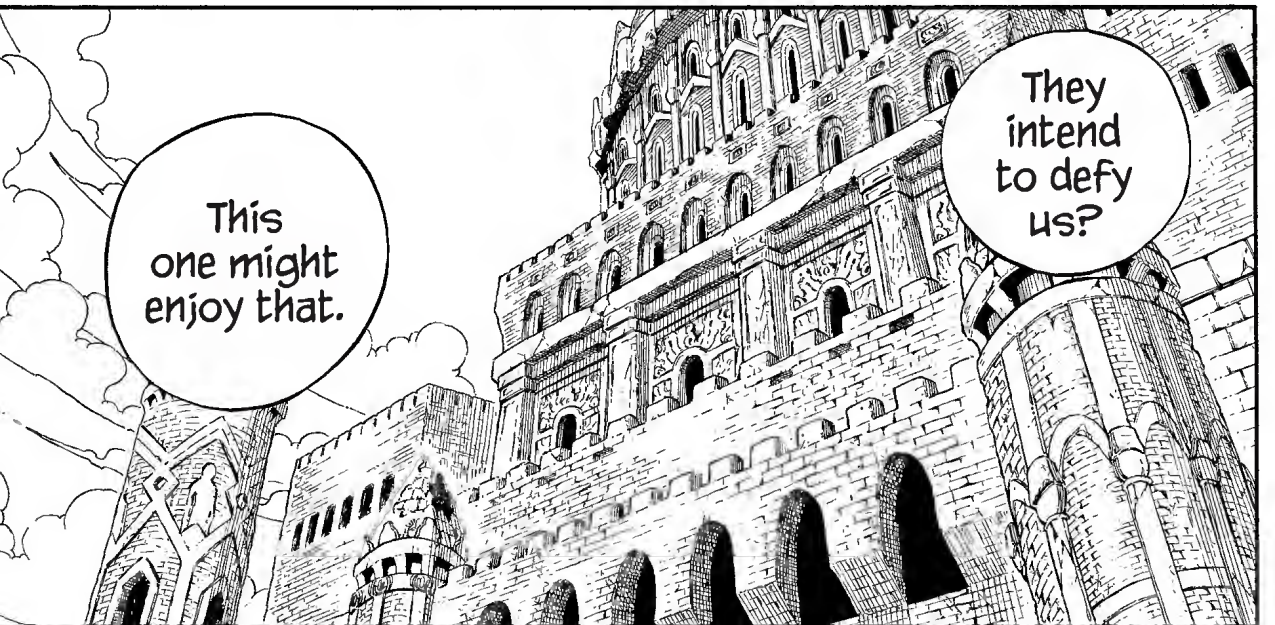
And Tempester-san! Your regeneration isn't free either! You shouldn't go spreading Devil Particles for no good reason!
...

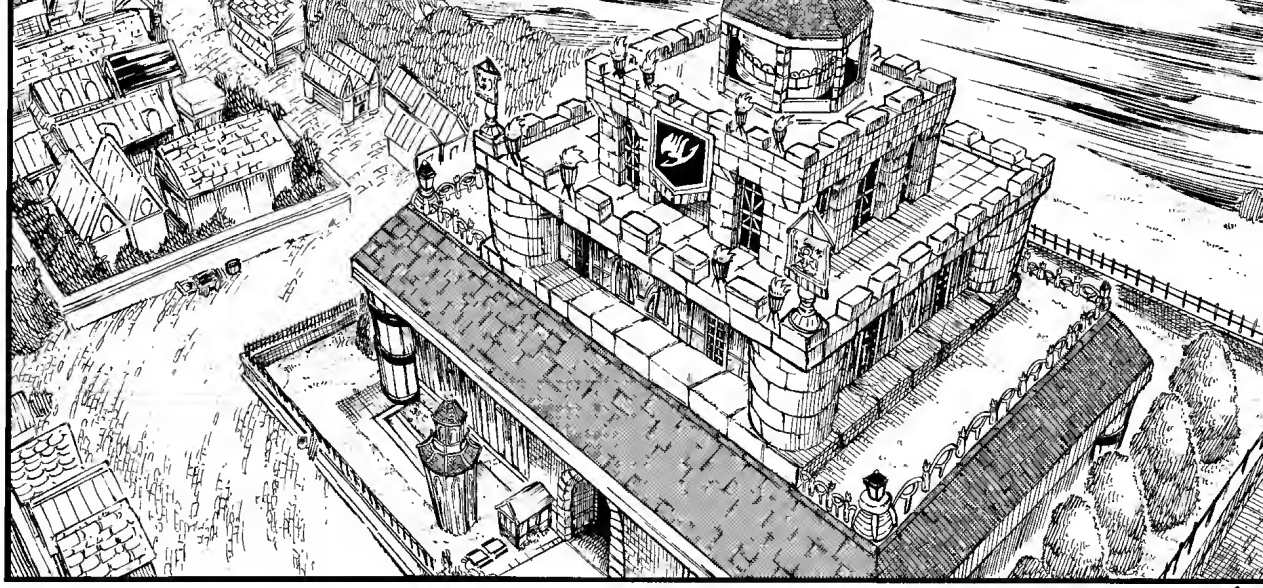

I wonder how much we wasted on him? How much?
Geh heh heh!


If it hadn't been for their interference, this would never have happened...
Fairy Tail...

!
Fairy Tail?
GLUB
GLUB
TWITCH
TWITCH
GLUB
GLUB
They're the guild who took out the Seis and Grimoire.
Look at that... The little girl is reacting.

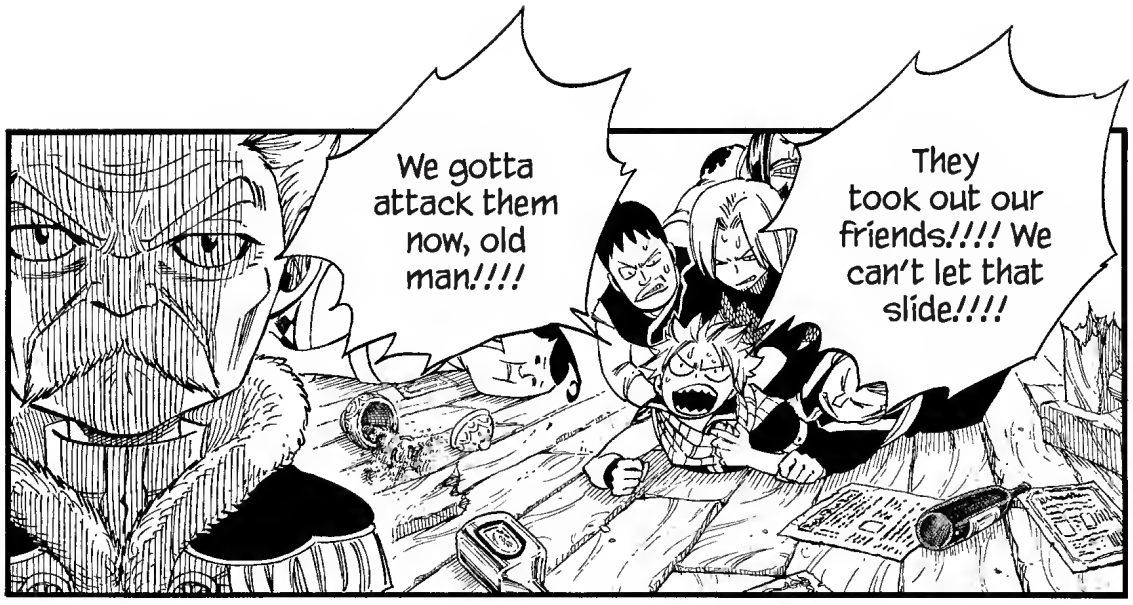
Fairy Tail...
Heh heh heh...


They intend to defy us?
This one might enjoy that.

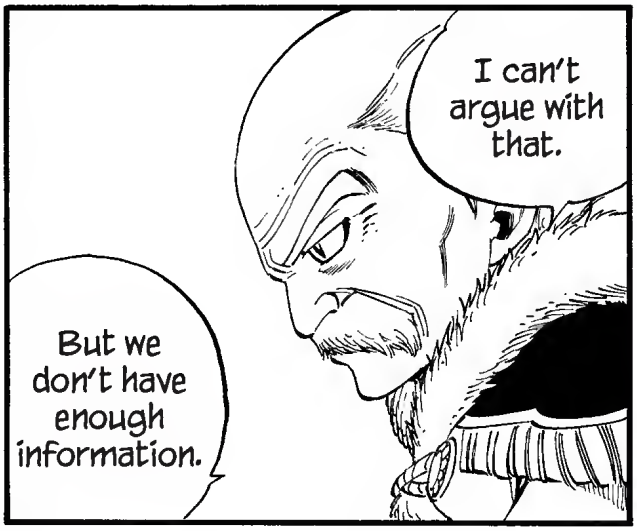


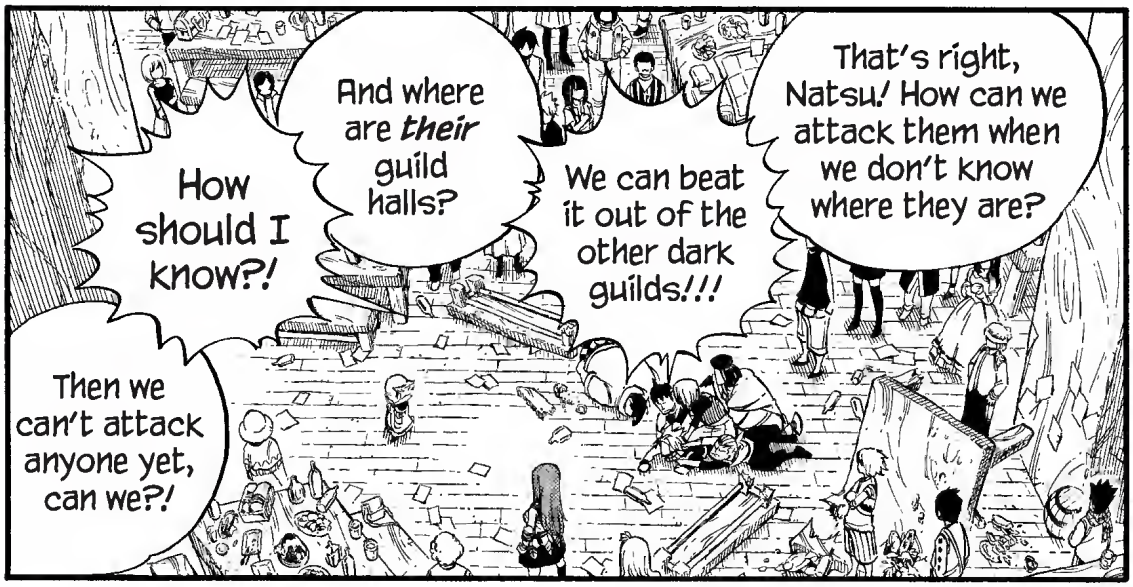
This means war!!!!
We're gonna crush every one of them Tartaros creeps!!!!

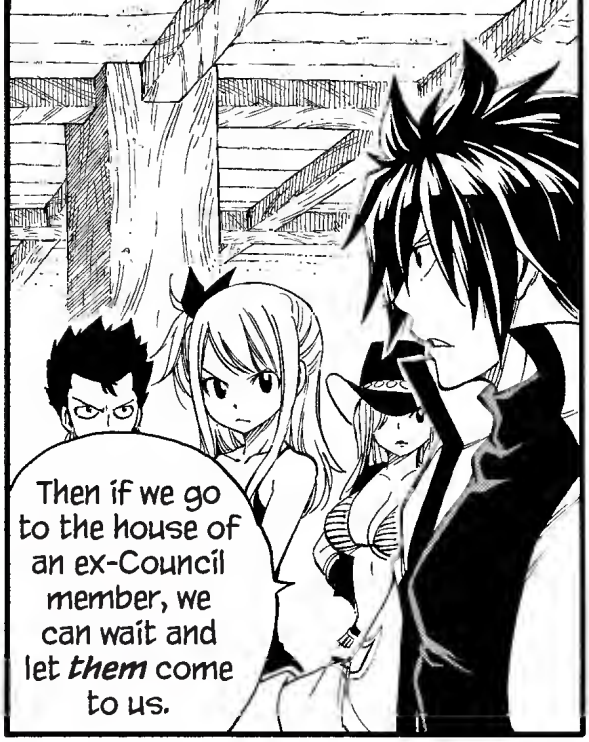
Let me go!! I'm gonna bust some heads!
Just calm down, Natsu!!
My head's already busted.
We all feel the same way!


We gotta attack them now, old man!!!!
They took out our friends!!!! We can't let that slide!!!!

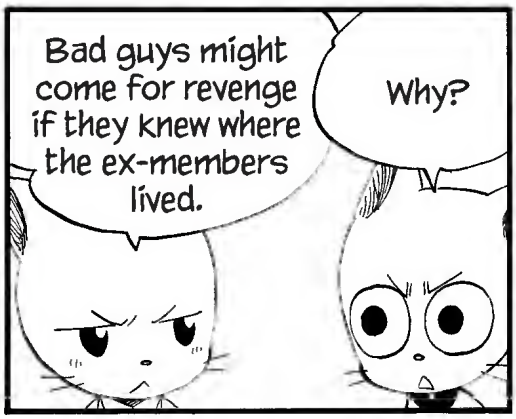
We don't know what Tartaros is after.
And even the Council didn't know where their guild hall is located.


I can't argue with that.
But we don't have enough information.

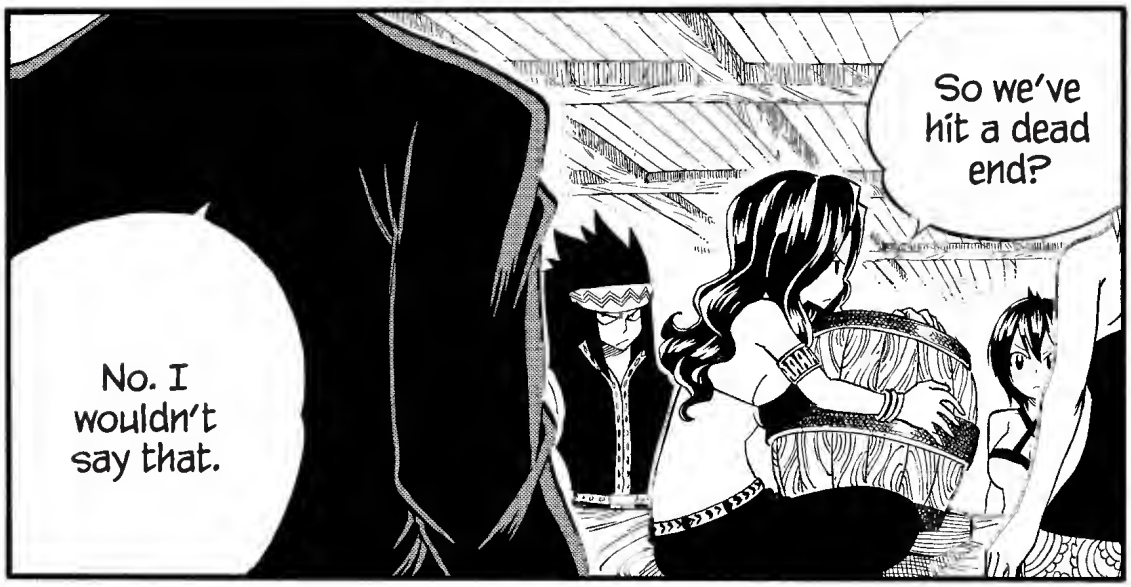

How should I know?!
And where are *their* guild halls?
We can beat it out of the other dark guilds!!!
That's right, Natsu! How can we attack them when we don't know where they are?
Then we can't attack anyone yet, can we?!


Then if we go to the house of an ex-Council member, we can wait and let *them* come to us.

The one thing we *do* know is that they're after Council members.
And not just the present ones, but the past ones, too.


Bad guys might come for revenge if they knew where the ex-members lived.
Why?

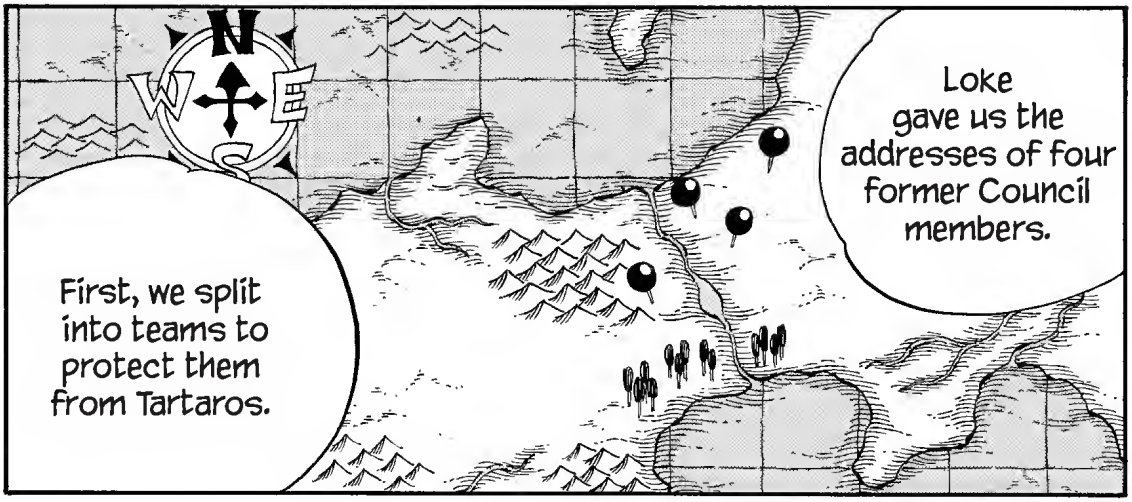
But the addresses of former members are never divulged. Nobody knows where they are.

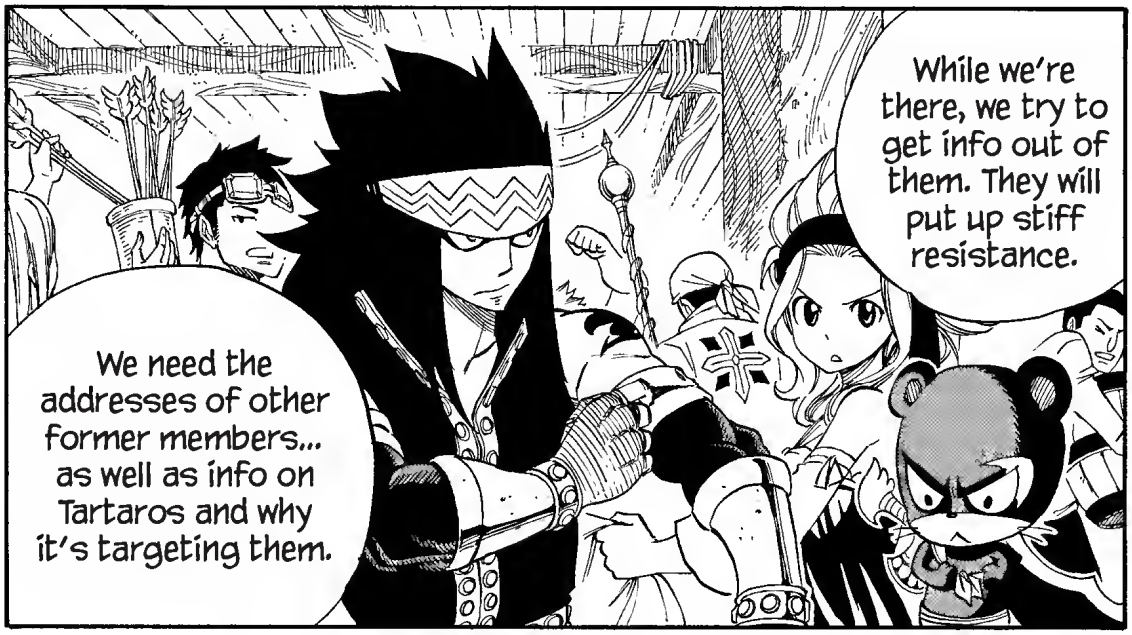

So we've hit a dead end?
No. I wouldn't say that.

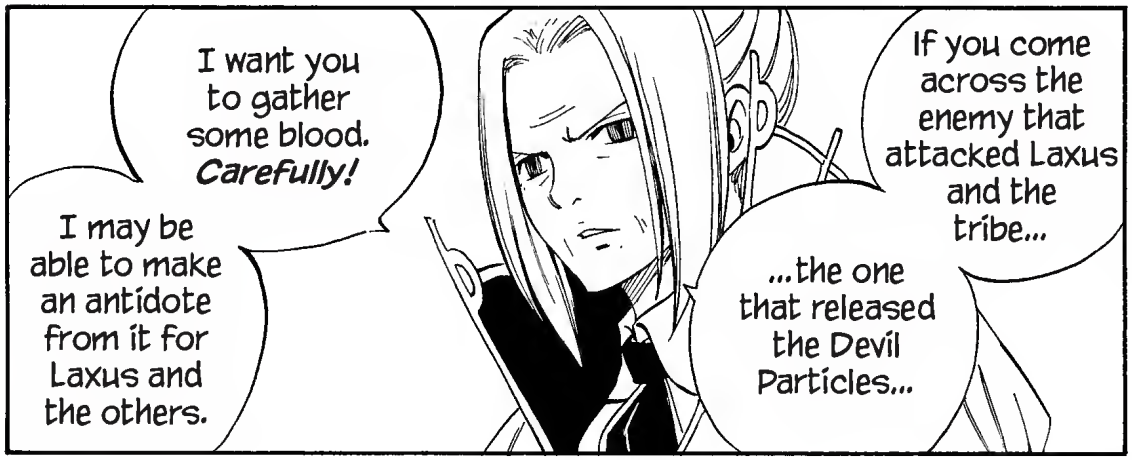
I know where we can find some former Council members.
Not *all* of them, but...
SHIFF!

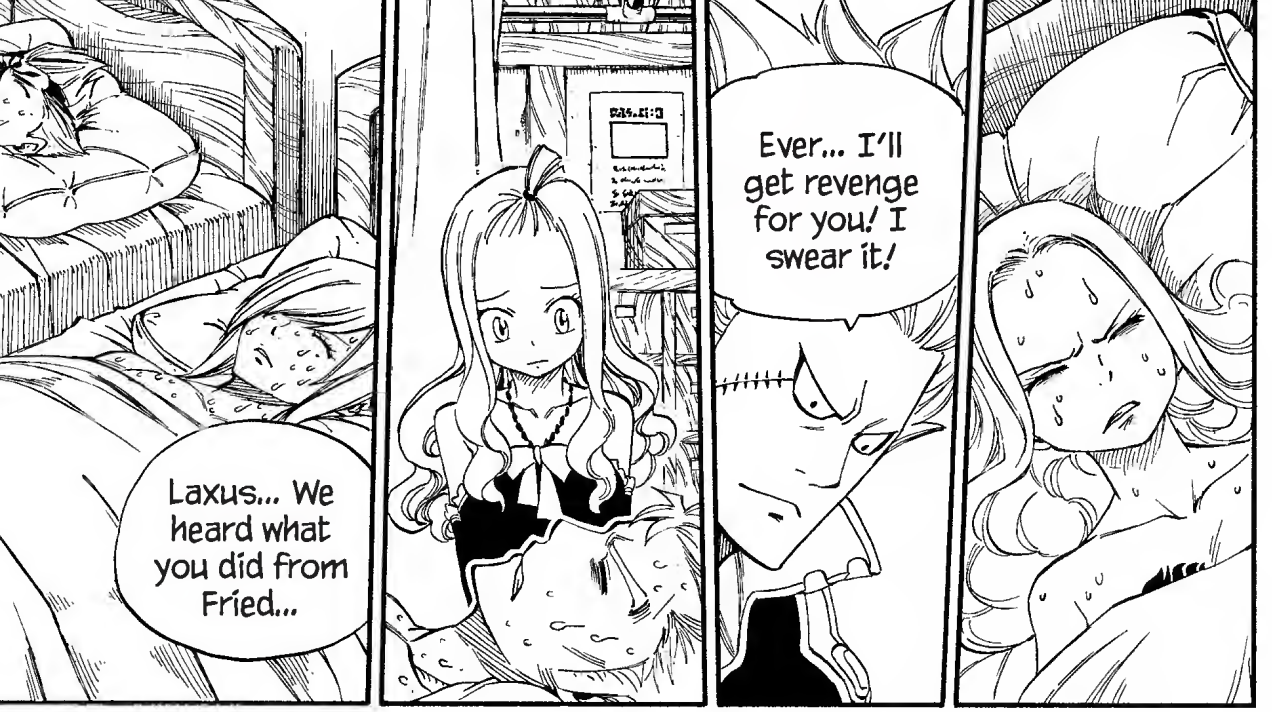
From girls, right?
BLUSH
MUTTER MUTTER

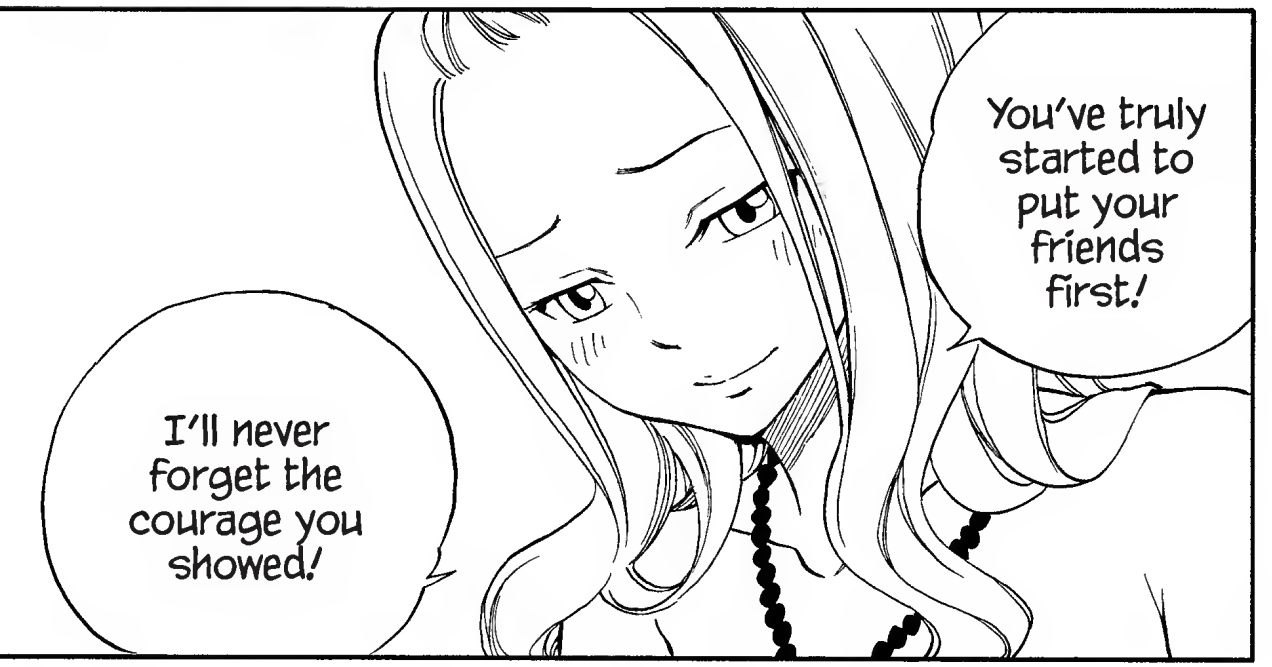
How do you know that, Loke-san?
Loke!!

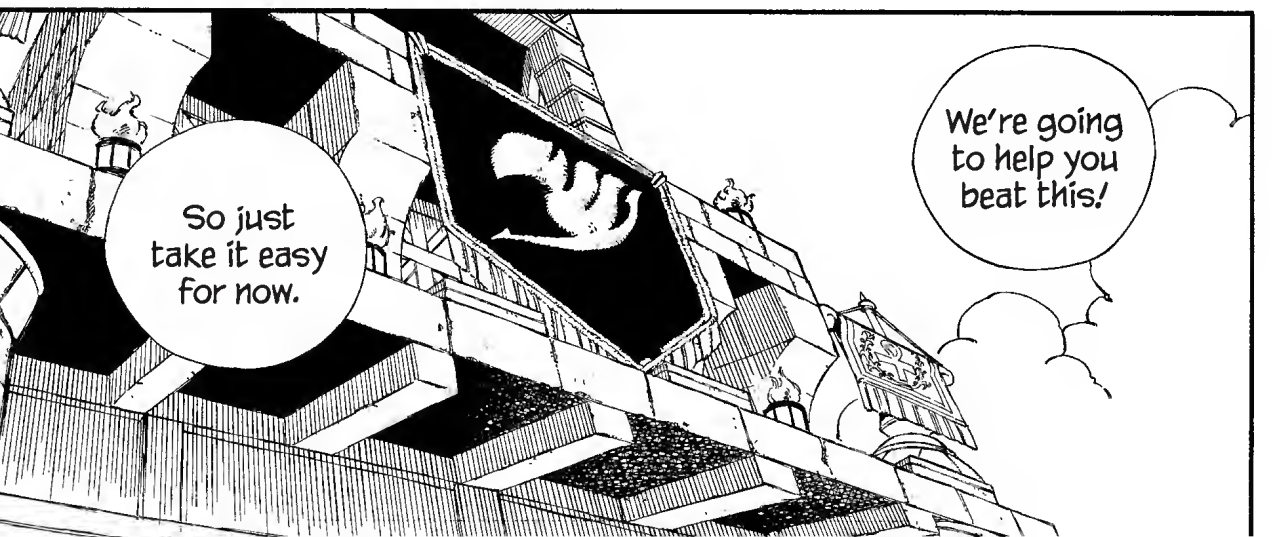

N
W
E
S
First, we split into teams to protect them from Tartaros.
Loke gave us the addresses of four former Council members.


We need the addresses of other former members... as well as info on Tartaros and why it's targeting them.
While we're there, we try to get info out of them. They will put up stiff resistance.

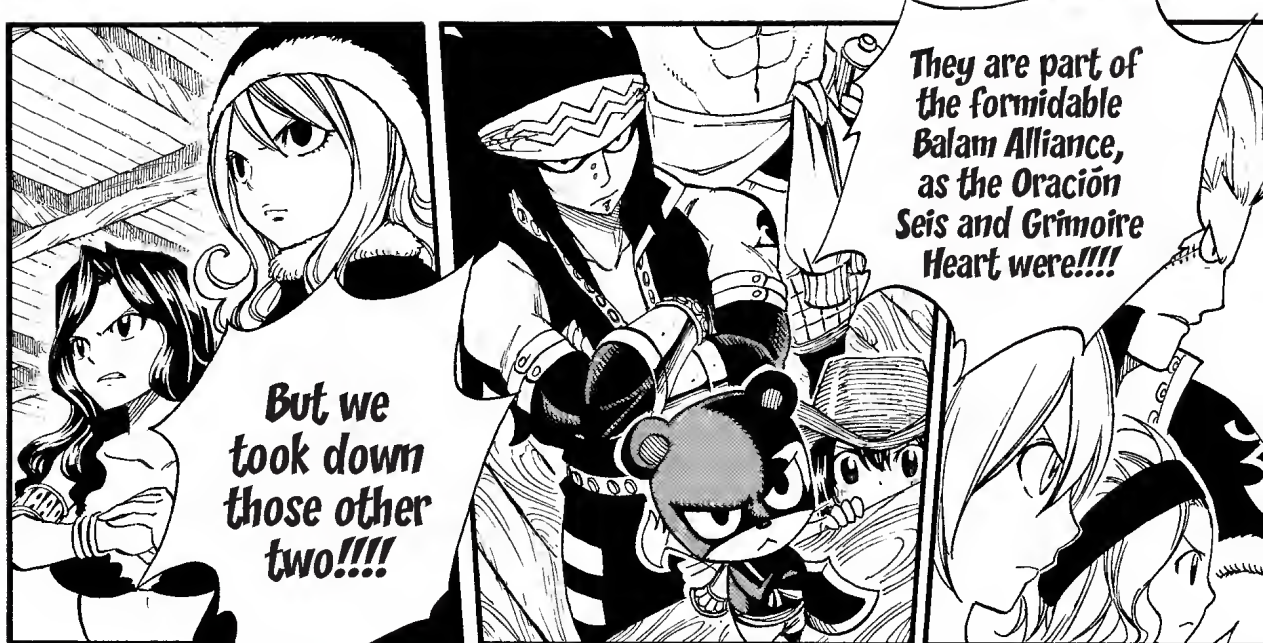

I want you to gather some blood. *Carefully!*
I may be able to make an antidote from it for Laxus and the others.
If you come across the enemy that attacked Laxus and the tribe...
...the one that released the Devil Particles...


Laxus... We heard what you did from Fried...
Ever... I'll get revenge for you! I swear it!


You've truly started to put your friends first!
I'll never forget the courage you showed!


We're going to help you beat this!
So just take it easy for now.

The enemy is Tartaros!!!!


But we took down those other two!!!!
They are part of the formidable Balam Alliance, as the Oración Seis and Grimoire Heart were!!!!

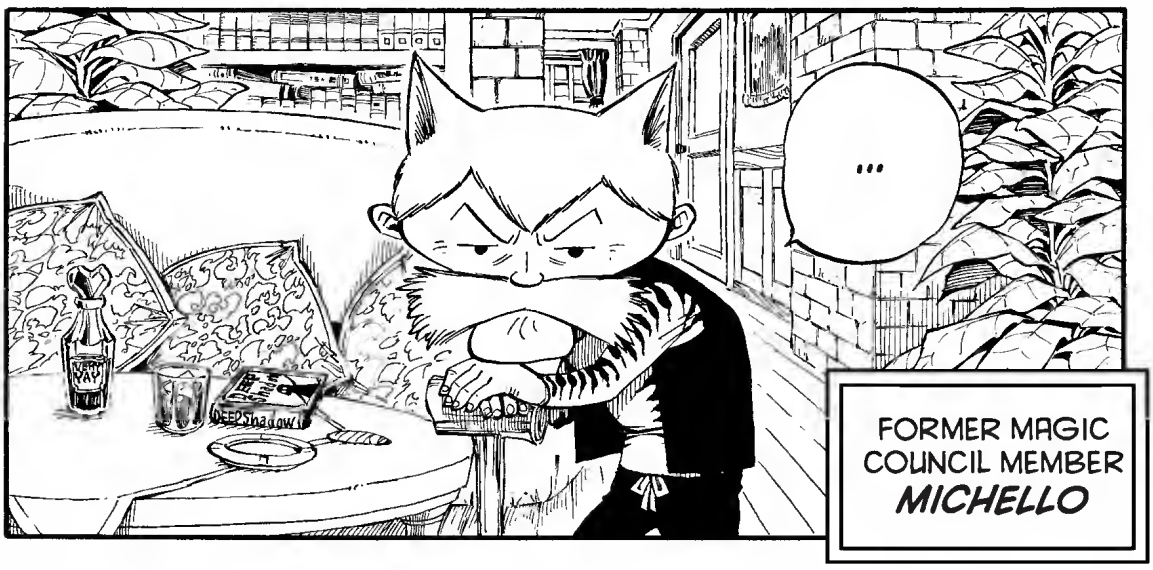
We'll make them regret ever making enemies of us!!!!
And we'll do the same to Tartaros!!!!

When you spill blood from one of us, you are spilling it from us all!!!!
We feel our friends' pain as if it was our own!!!!
They hurt our friends !!!!

I want you to take the pain and suffering you're feeling right now...and use it to fuel your fight against our enemy!!!!

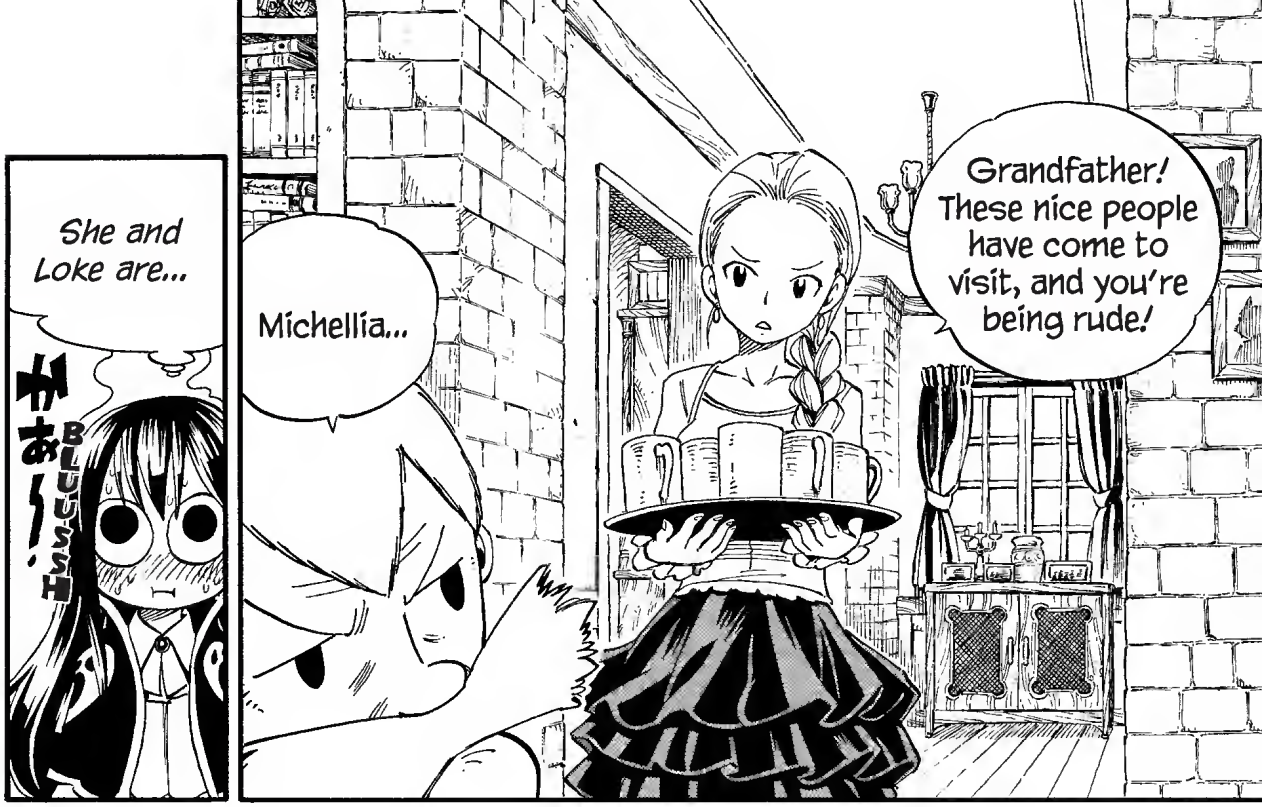
We're fighting because we choose to fight!!!!
We're not fighting for law and order!!!!

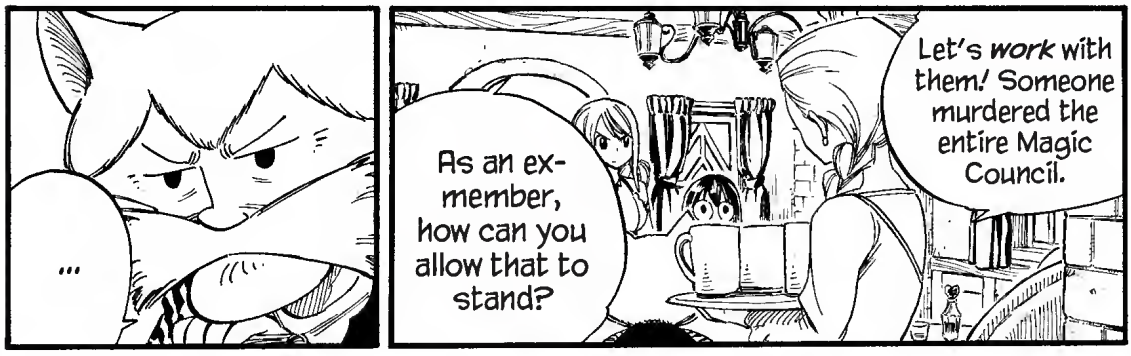
FAIRY TAIL
And for the precious bonds that tie us together...
...we will obliterate our family's enemies !!!!!


...
FORMER MAGIC COUNCIL MEMBER
MICHELLO

We'll protect you! You'd better let us!
...and that's why we've come here... to be your bodyguards.

Who're you calling a cat?!
Come on, we cats need to stick together, don't we?
Kind of you to offer, but frankly, you'll be in the way.
And how'd you know where I live, anyway?
You will be targeted by Tartaros whether we are here or not.
That is not the same as being bait.
You're just using me as bait in your latest scheme, aren't you?
I know who you are! You're that problem guild!
I'm leaving! Don't try to find me!!
Don't make me laugh! What fool stands around waiting to be attacked when he knows he's being targeted?


She and Loke are...
Michellia...
Grandfather! These nice people have come to visit, and you're being rude!


...
As an ex-member, how can you allow that to stand?
Let's work with them! Someone murdered the entire Magic Council.

Um... Do you know of any reason why you'd all be targeted?
Far too many to list.
And the dark guilds aren't the only ones who might be holding grudges against us.

No... Wait...
It just might be Face...
Well, nothing comes to mind!
I don't think it's a grudge. I'm *certain* there is some other reason they are targeting the Council members.
Eek!!
WHOOSH !!
Everybody, get down!!!!
!
That smell !!!!
What ?!!
And your grand-daughter !!!!
You too, old guy !!!
EEEE !!
KYAA !!
SHUNK
What?!

WAKOOOM

Eee!
What's... going on...?

M-My house ...!!!!

Phew...
PAT PAT
I managed to eat it all in time!
Eat... it...? Huh?!
Aye!
Is everyone all right?
The house just exploded!! How'd we survive?
!!
What's this?
I thought you'd all be blown to bits.
Tarta-ros?
Wa ha ha!!
Just like the Magic Council!!
Who're you?!

I'm Natsu of Fairy Tail!!!
Time to hunt some demons!!
Who're you?

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 360: The White Inheritance

BLUE PEGASUS

Name: Ren Akatsuki **Age:** 27

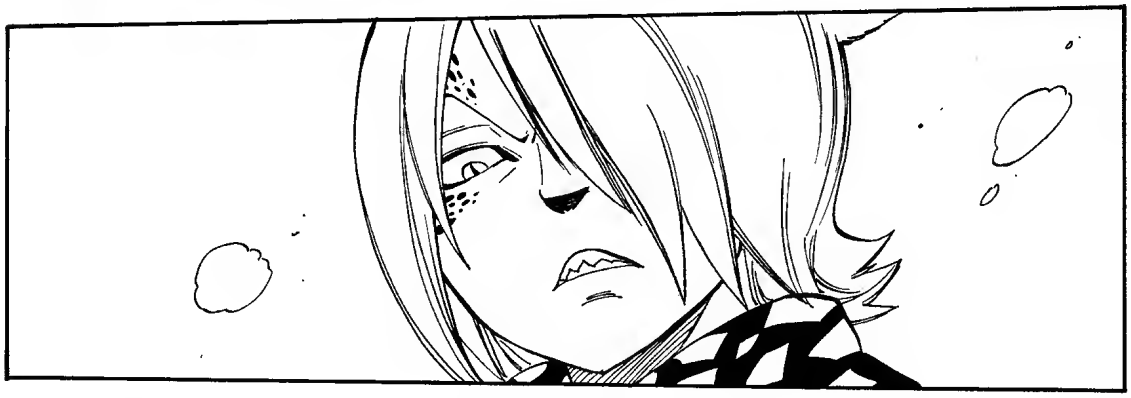
Magic: Air Magic

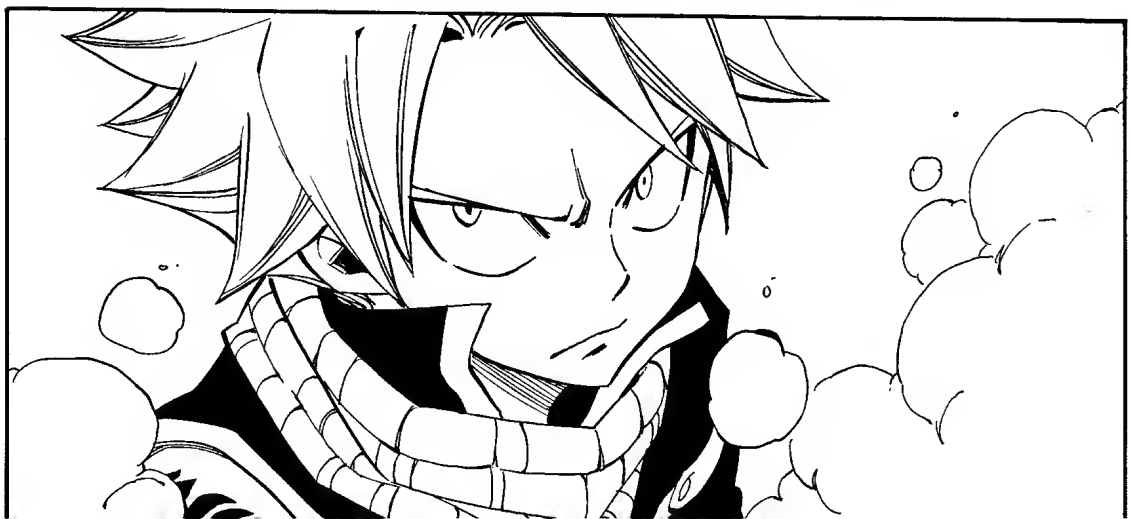
Likes: Rabbits **Dislikes:** Pale skin

Remarks

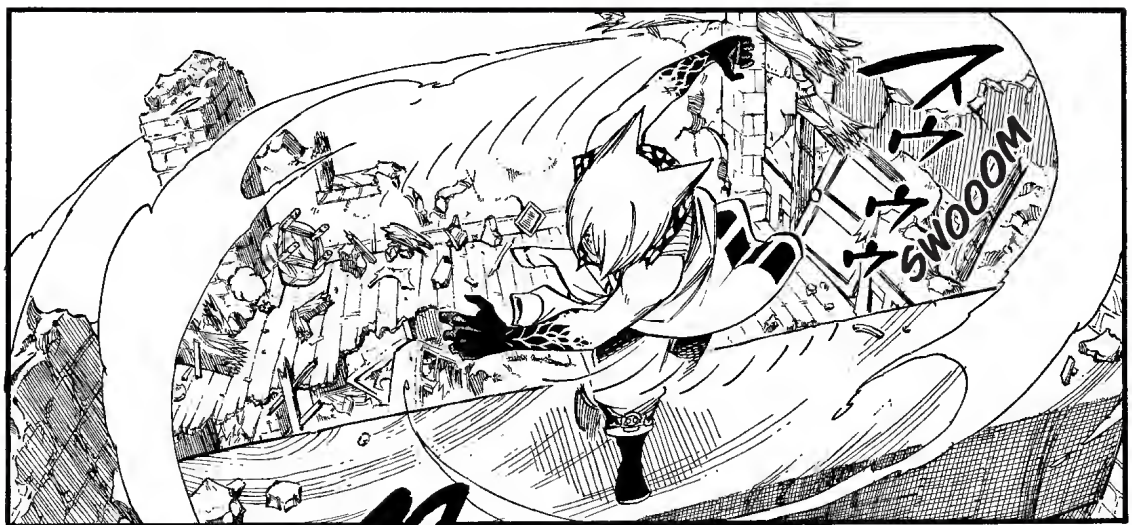
The *tsundere** of Blue Pegasus, he's very popular with the ladies. But seven years ago, he met Sherry of Lamia on a mission, and started dating her. Believe it or not, he's never dated another girl since. He's completely devoted to Sherry.
He was already "Big Brother Ren" to Sherria, and has a close relationship with her. The only person who opposes his relationship with Sherry is the master of Lamia, Ooba Babasaama. What will become of the star-crossed lovers separated by their guilds?!

**Tsundere* means someone who is usually prickly but expresses affection during moments of weakness.





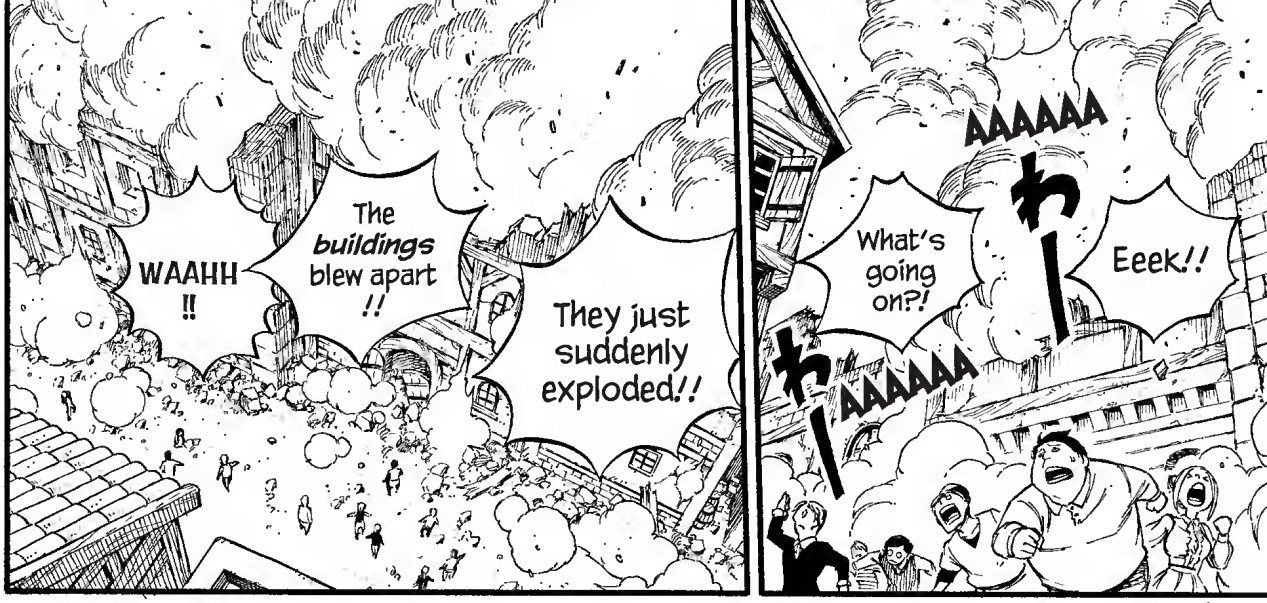
He's from Tartaros!
And he's the one who attacked the Council in Era?!
Grandfather !!
Who is this scoundrel?!! Look what he did to our house!!
We'll be all right if we just leave this fight to Natsu.
You don't have to tell *me* that!!
He's after you!! Let's get you out of here!!
GRIN
Right!


SWOOOM

VWIRL

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
!


WAAHH !!
The buildings blew apart !!
They just suddenly exploded!!
What's going on?!
AAAAAA
わー
Eeek!!
わー
AAAAAA

BOOM
The town has nothing to do with this!! Why...?!
You little ...!!!

WHOOSH
Explode !!!!
KRAKOOOM!!

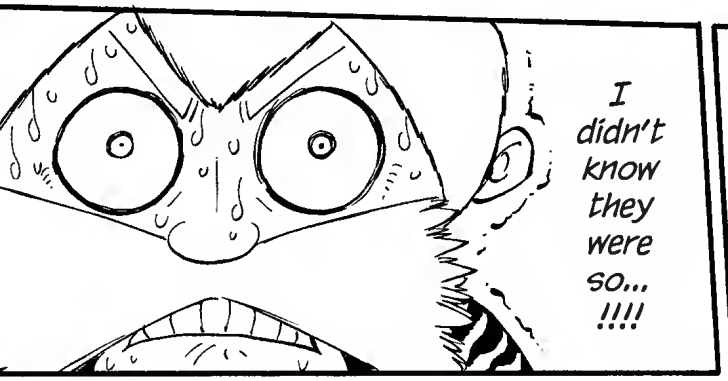
Natsu uses heat-based magic, so...
It's all right.
A direct hit?!!!

GOBBLE
はぁ
GOBBLE
はぁ
GOBBLE
はぁ
GOBBLE
はぁ
GOBBLE
はぁ
...it doesn't work on him!!!
What is this guy?!
He's eating my explo...

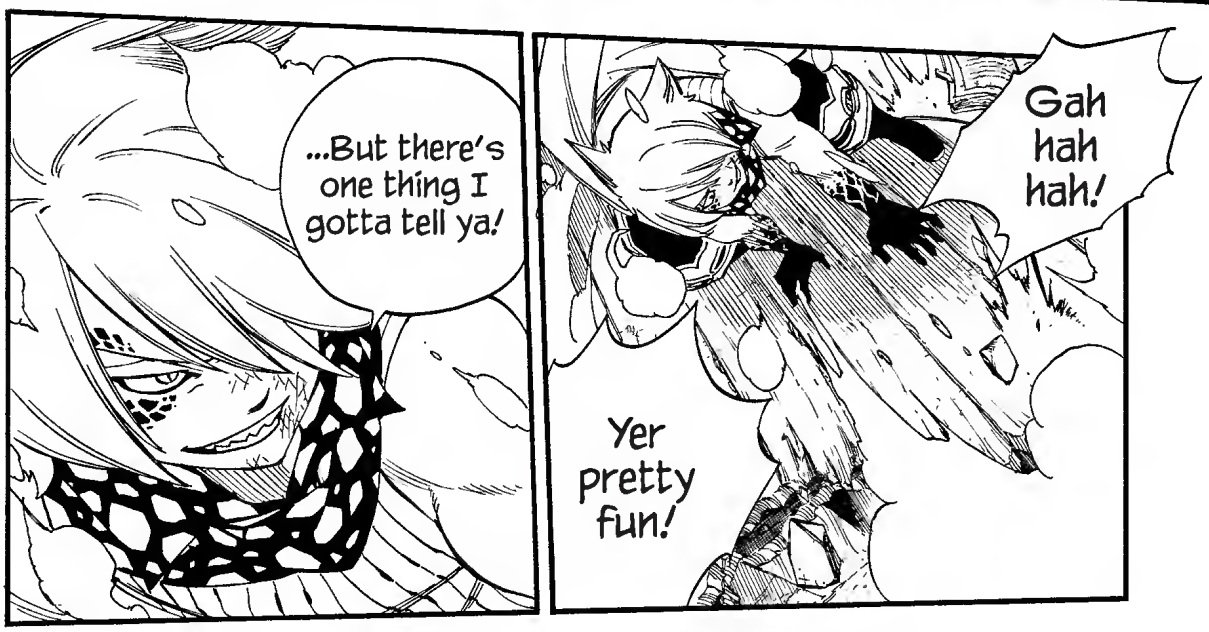
WHAM
GAH !!
VYUUM
WHAGOOOM

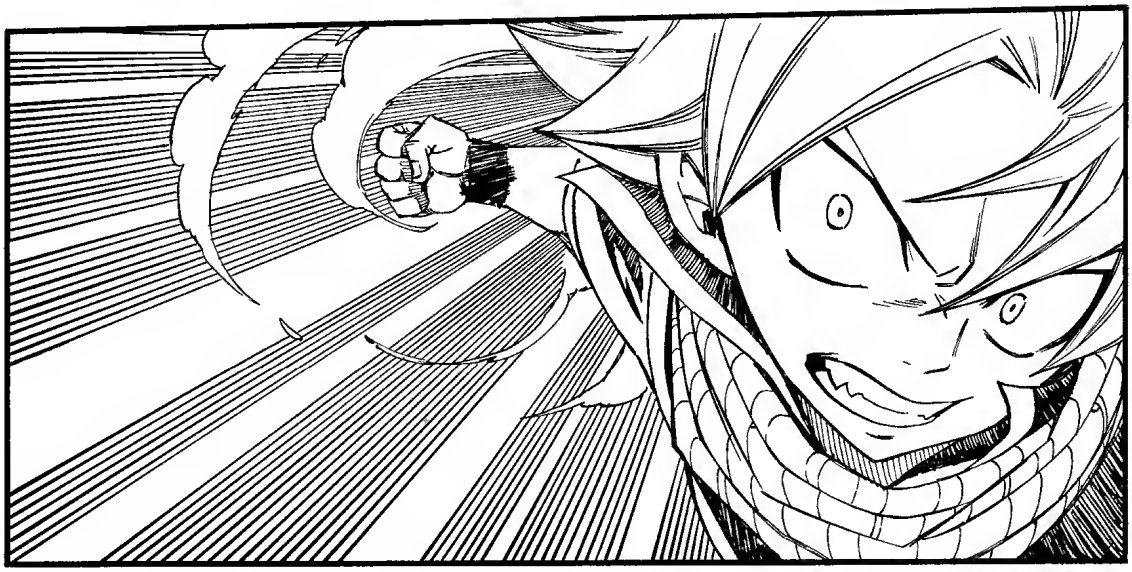
That was close!!
WHOOSH
GAHAMM
The guy's like a fireball!
!
You gotta be kidding!!

Guh!
DOOM!


I didn't know they were so... !!!!

This is the first time I've ever seen a Fairy Tail wizard fighting up close...

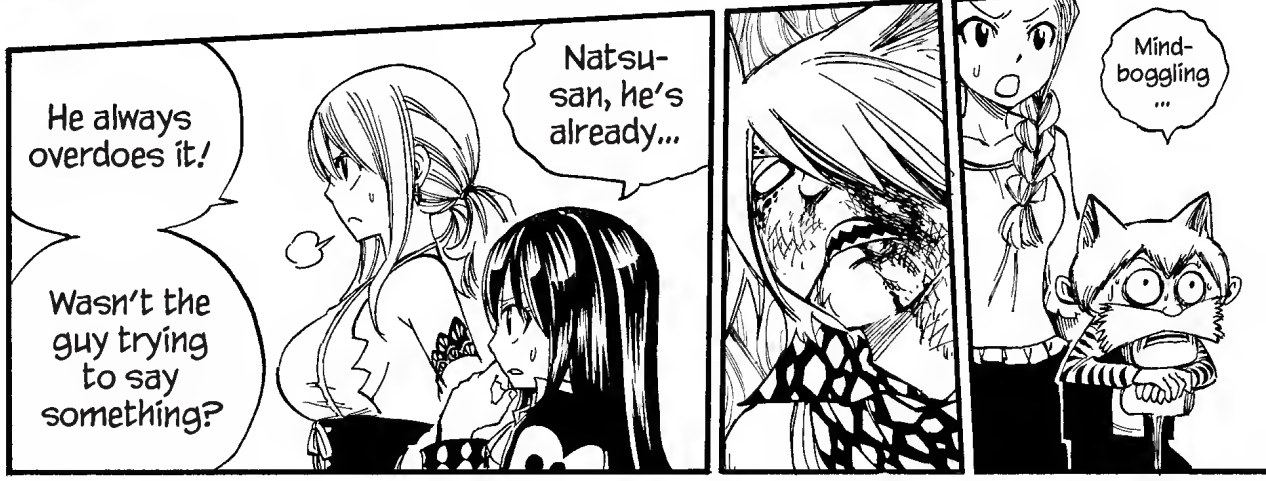

...But there's one thing I gotta tell ya!
Gah hah hah!
Yer pretty fun!

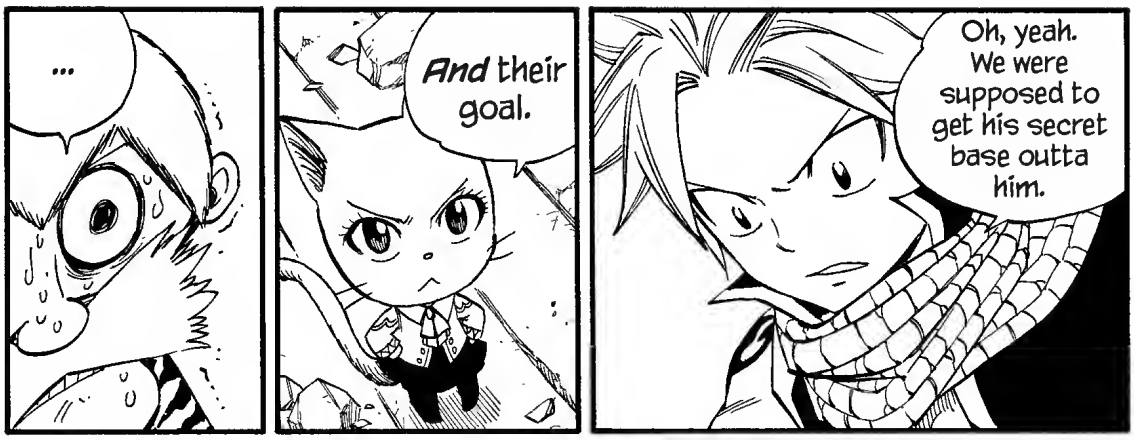


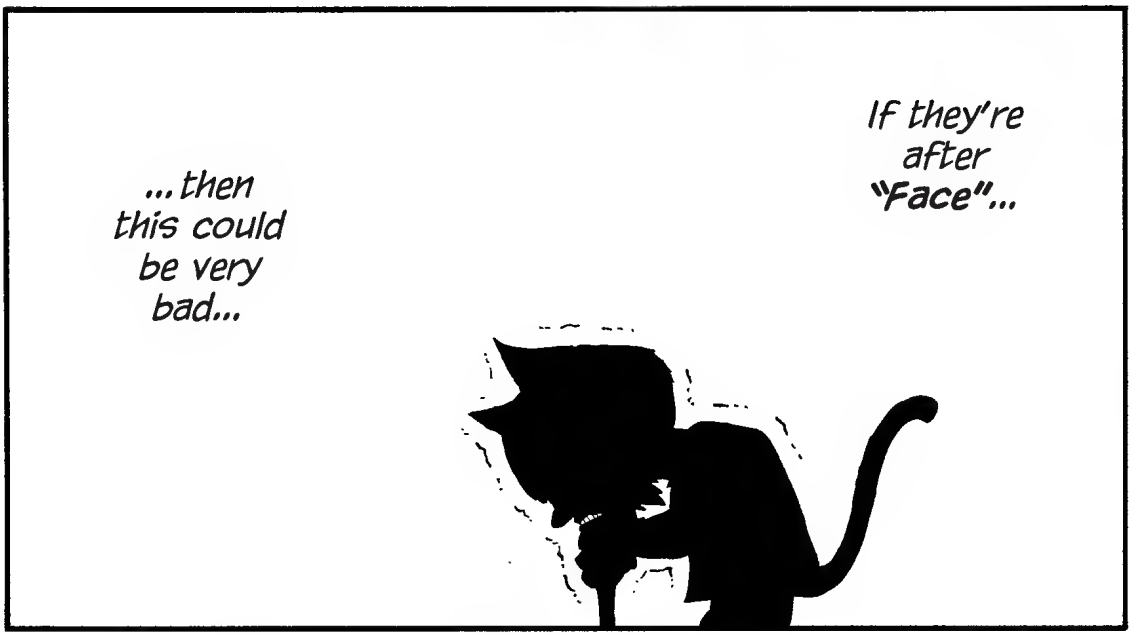
Wait...
GWAHOOOM

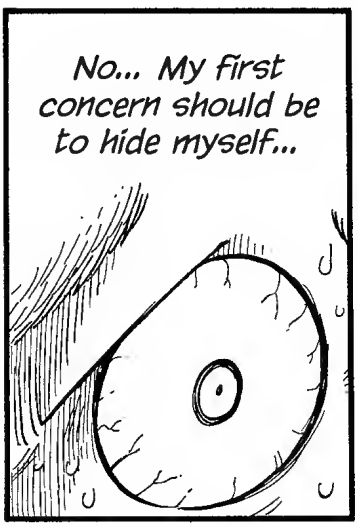
!
AWAAAA

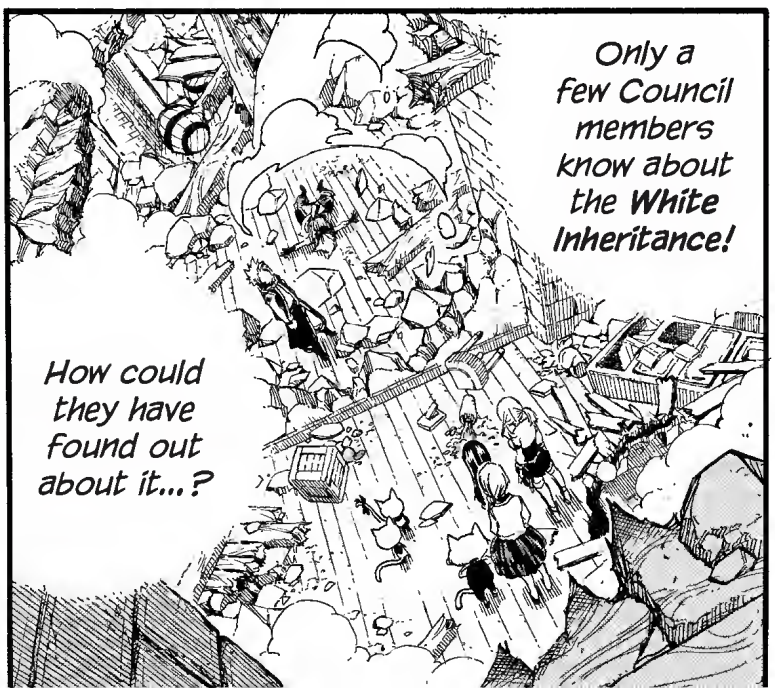
THAM
THAM
THAM
THAM
THAM
THAM
I ain't done yet!!!!
WHAM
CRACK
BASH

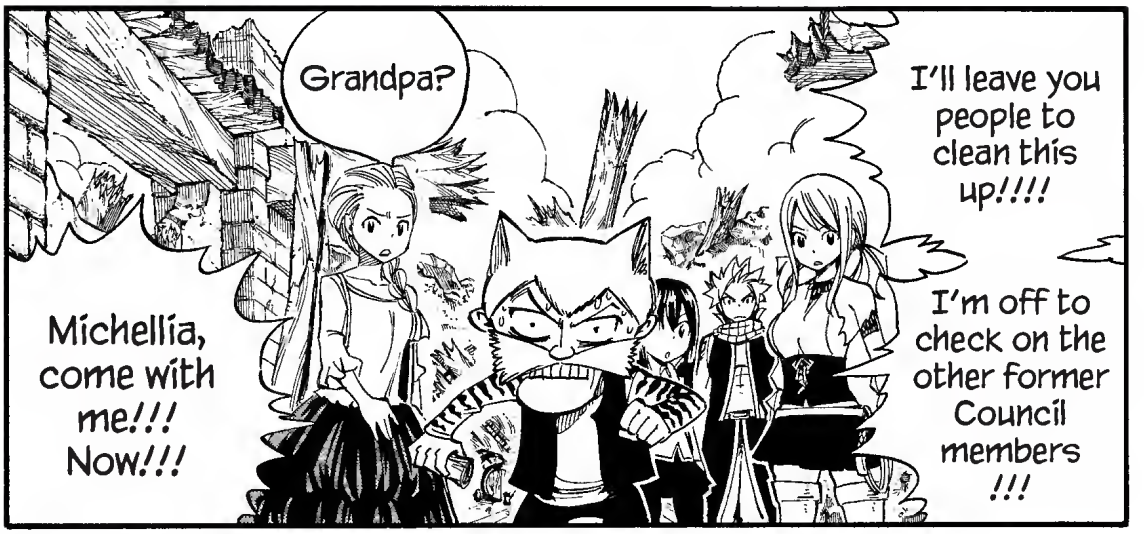

He always overdoes it!
Natsu-san, he's already...
Wasn't the guy trying to say something?
Mind-boggling ...

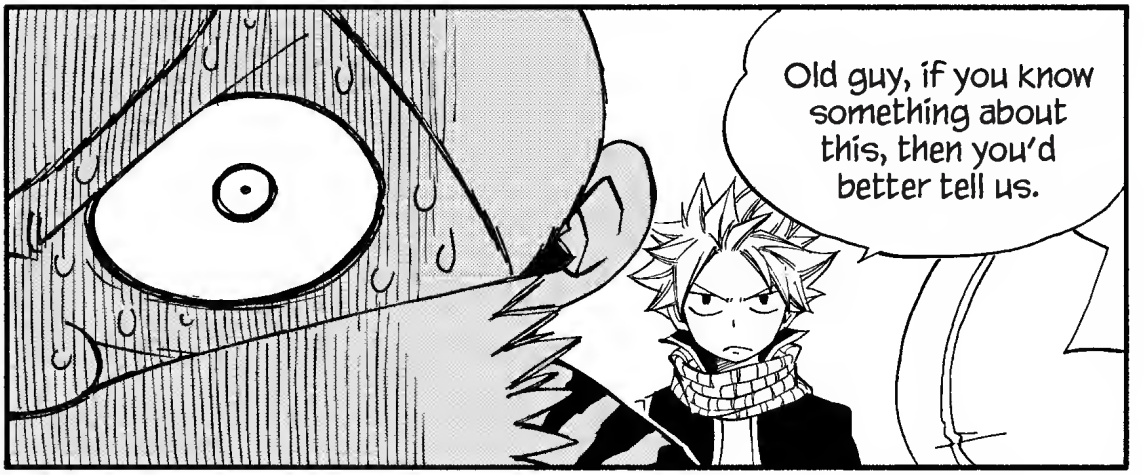

...
And their goal.
Oh, yeah. We were supposed to get his secret base outta him.

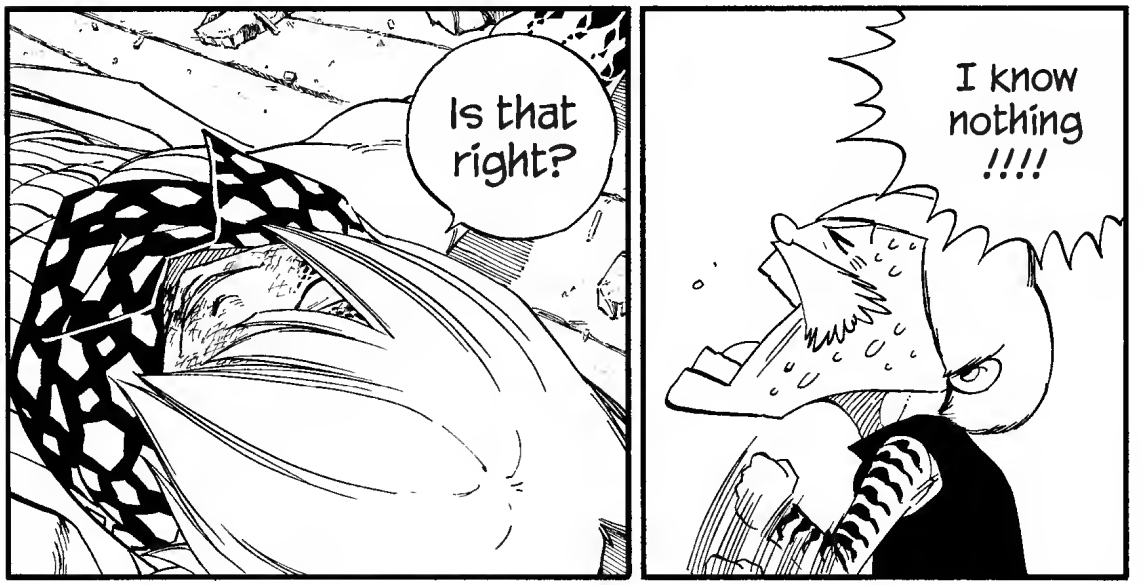

...then this could be very bad...
If they're after "Face"...

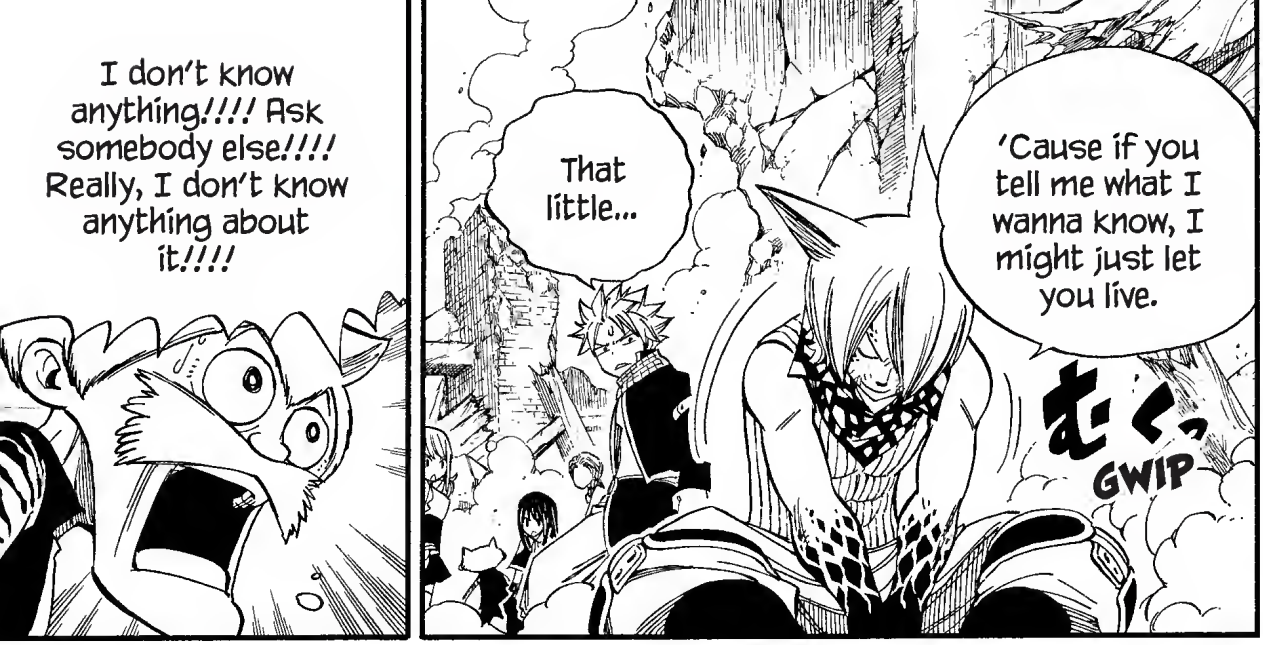

No... My first concern should be to hide myself...

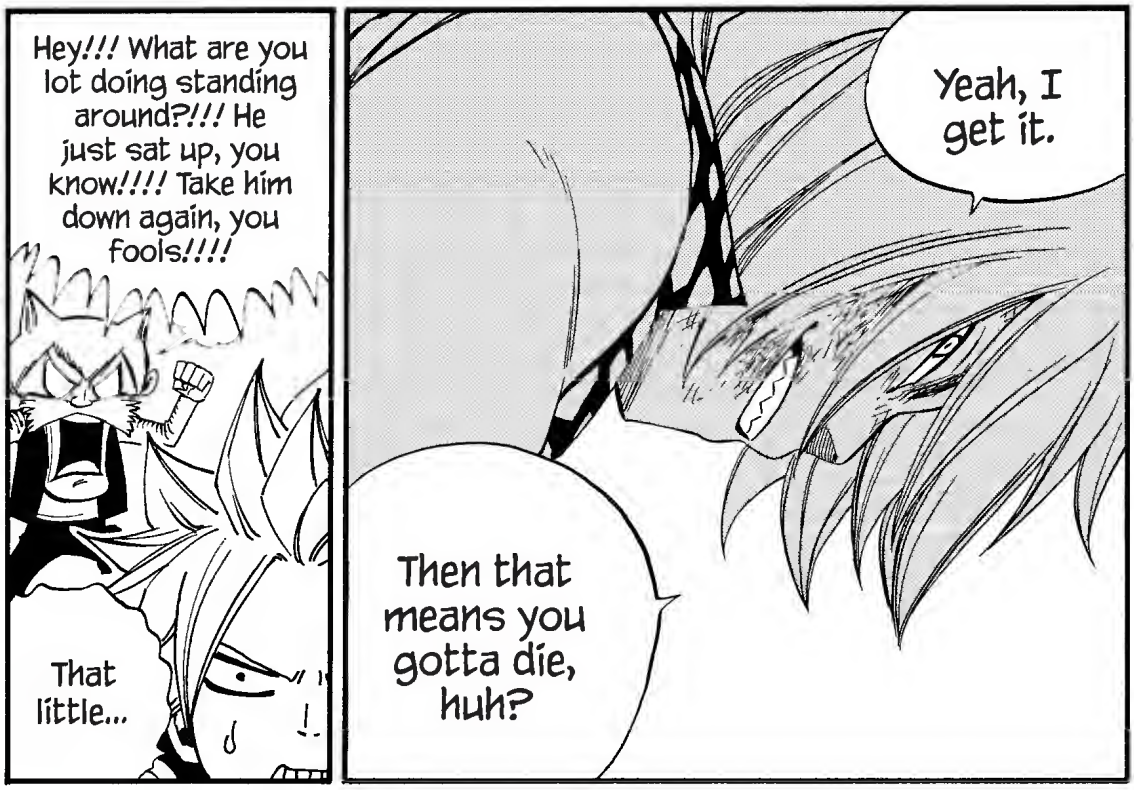

Only a few Council members know about the White Inheritance!
How could they have found out about it...?


Grandpa?
I'll leave you people to clean this up!!!!
Michellia, come with me!!! Now!!!
I'm off to check on the other former Council members !!!

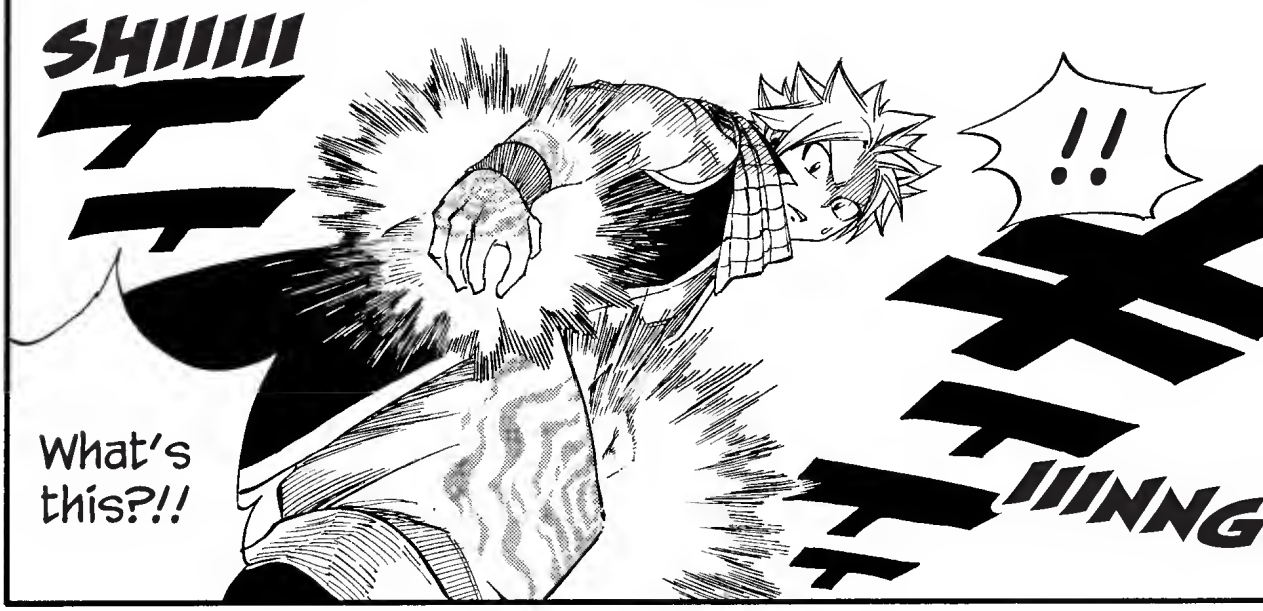

Old guy, if you know something about this, then you'd better tell us.

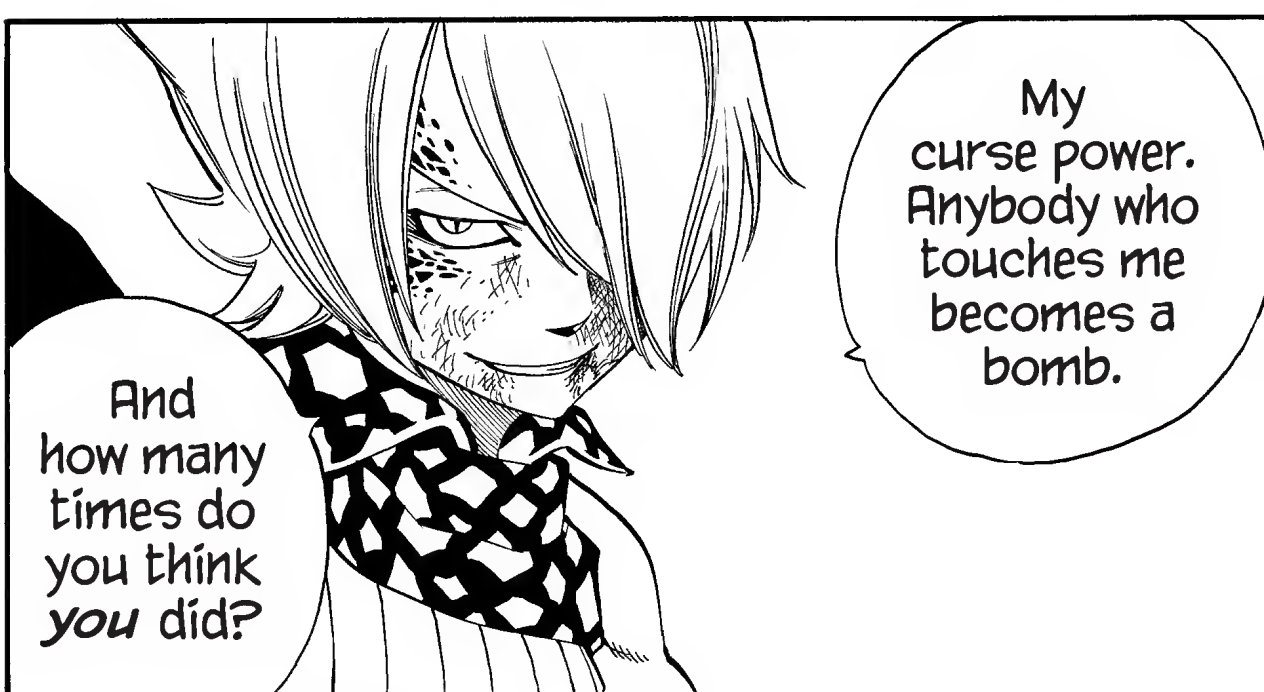

Is that right?
I know nothing !!!!


I don't know anything!!!! Ask somebody else!!!! Really, I don't know anything about it!!!!
That little...
'Cause if you tell me what I wanna know, I might just let you live.
むく
GWIP


Hey!!! What are you lot doing standing around?!!! He just sat up, you know!!!! Take him down again, you fools!!!!
That little...
Yeah, I get it.
Then that means you gotta die, huh?

?!
Listen when a guy starts talking to you!!!
And then there's you!!

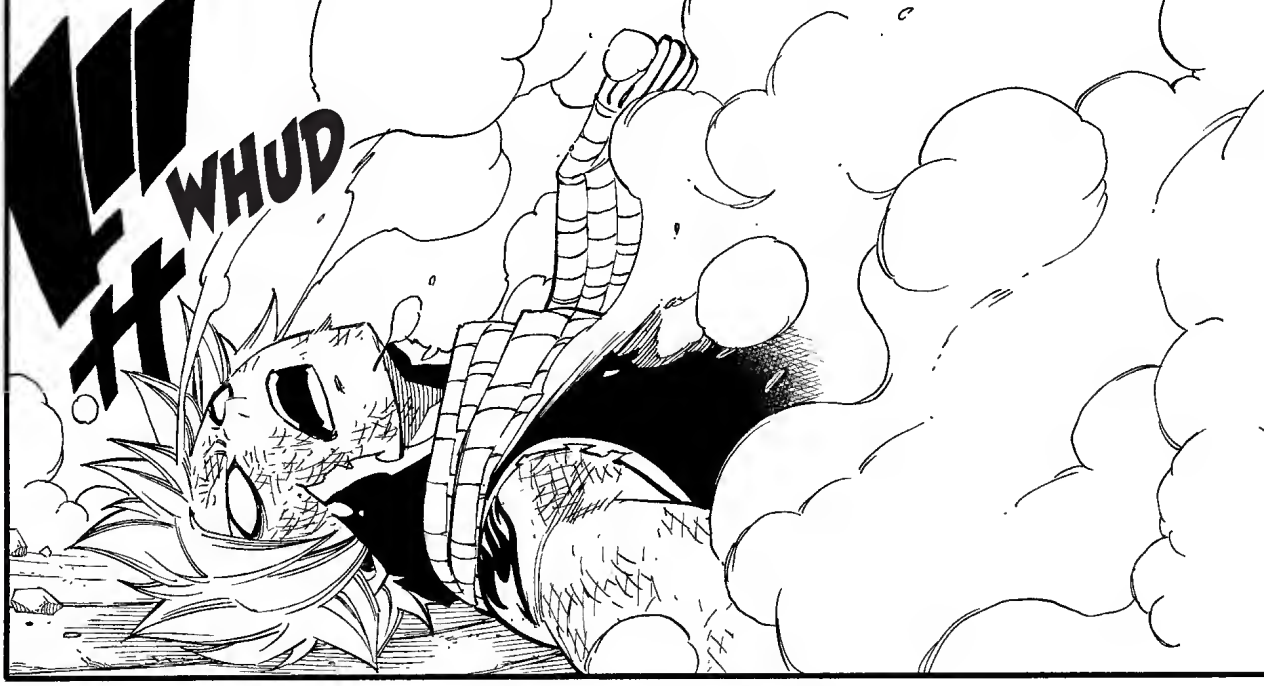

SHIIIII
!!
What's this?!!

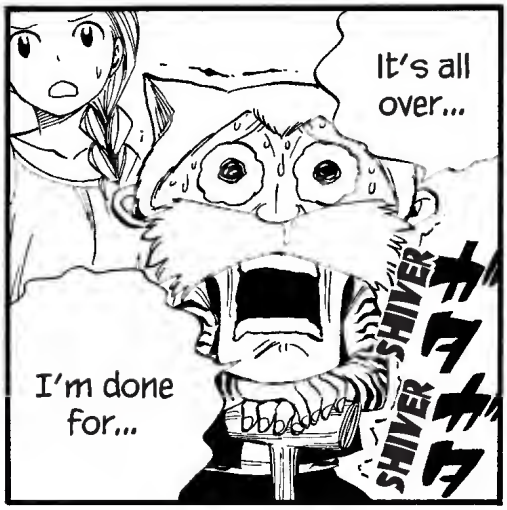

My curse power. Anybody who touches me becomes a bomb.
And how many times do you think *you* did?

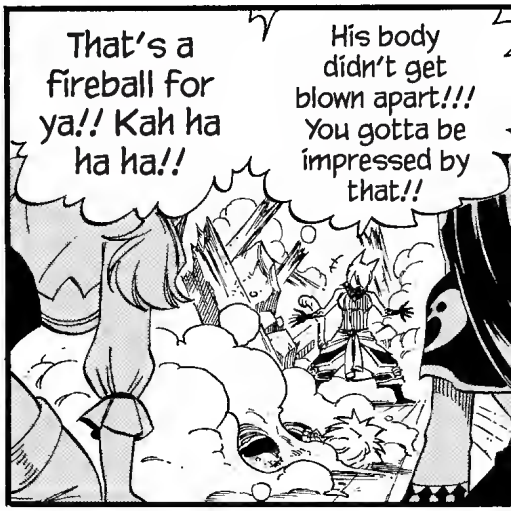
SHIIIING
But...
Everybody, get away from me !!!!
Natsu !!!
Kh!
Hurry !!!

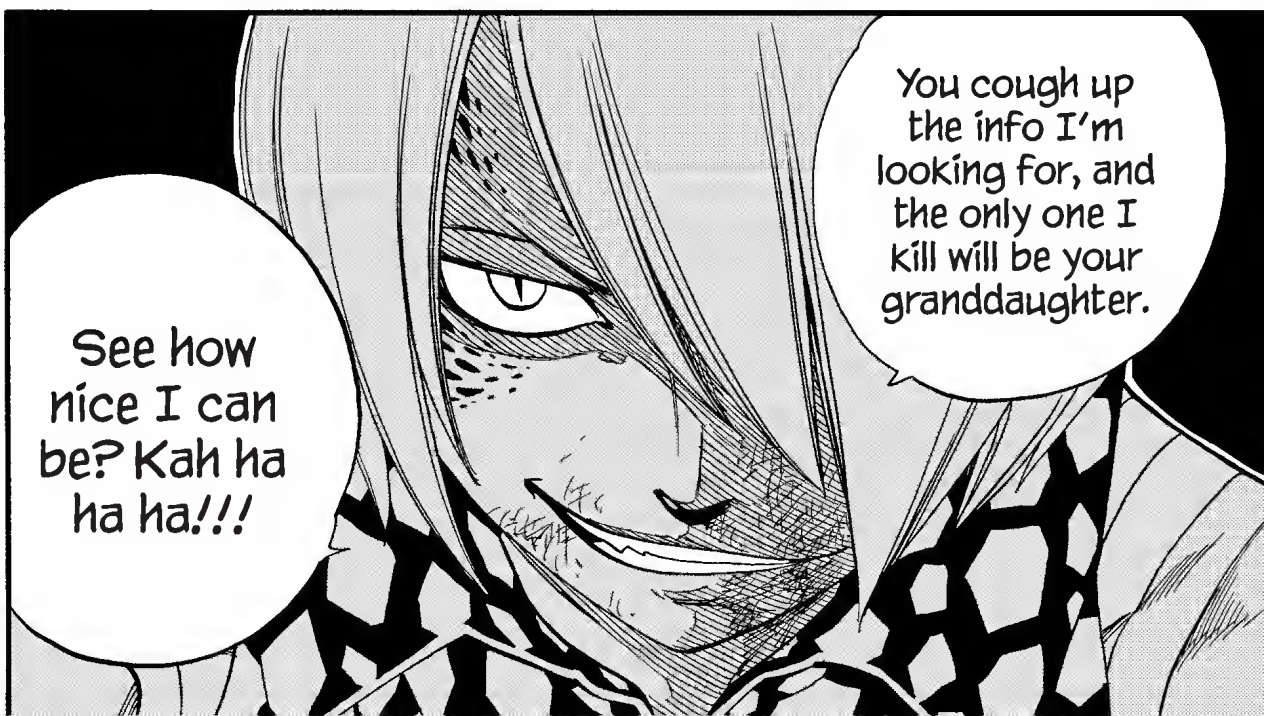
BAKOOOOOM!!
Natsu !!!!

Natsu-san!!
No way...
Kah ha ha!!


WHUD

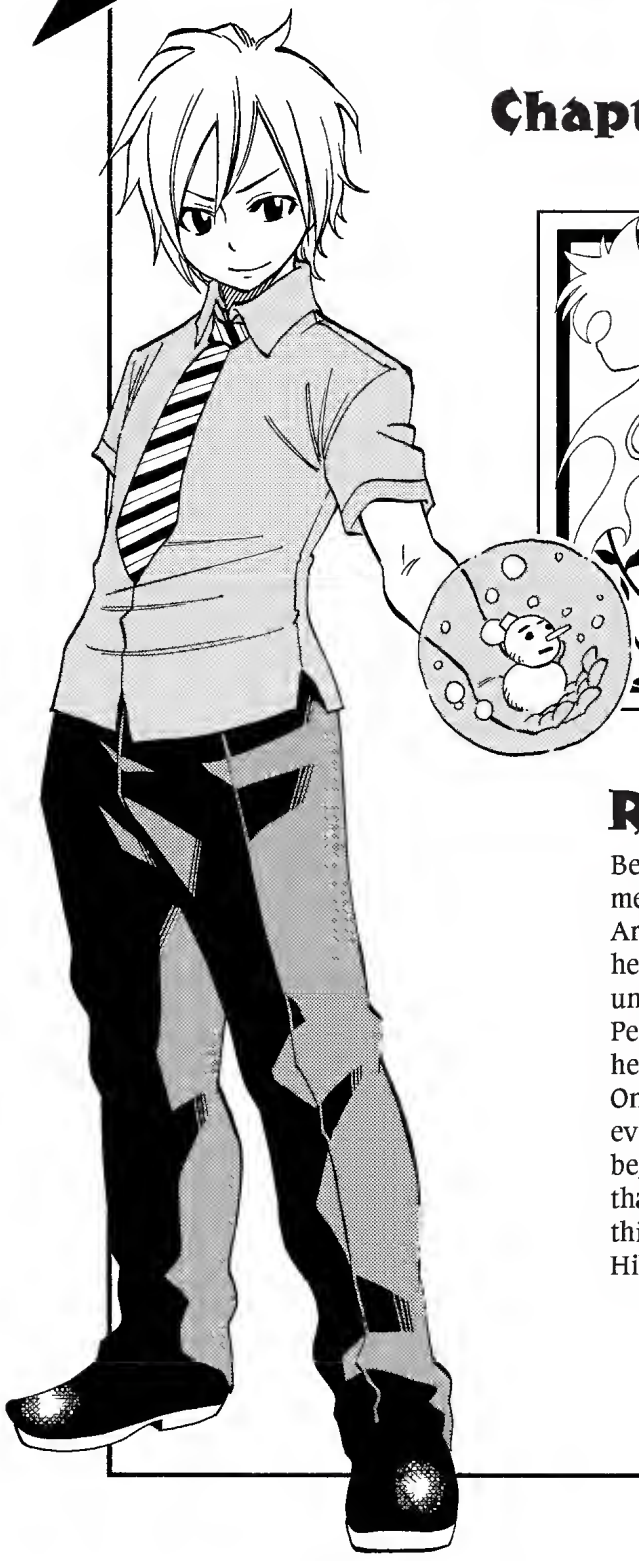

It's all over...
I'm done for...
bbbbbbb
SHIVER
カタガタ
SHIVER


That's a fireball for ya!! Kah ha ha ha!!
His body didn't get blown apart!!! You gotta be impressed by that!!


You cough up the info I'm looking for, and the only one I kill will be your granddaughter.
See how nice I can be? Kah ha ha ha!!!

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 361: Two Bombs



BLUE PEGASUS

Name: Eve Tearm Age: 23

Magic: Snow Magic

Likes: Big-sister-type girls

Dislikes: Bell peppers

Remarks

Before he joined Blue Pegasus, Eve was a member of the Magic Council's forces in the Arrest and Custody Division. At the time, he was considered a child prodigy, but for unknown reasons, he wound up in Blue Pegasus. One explanation attributes it to headhunting by Master Bob.

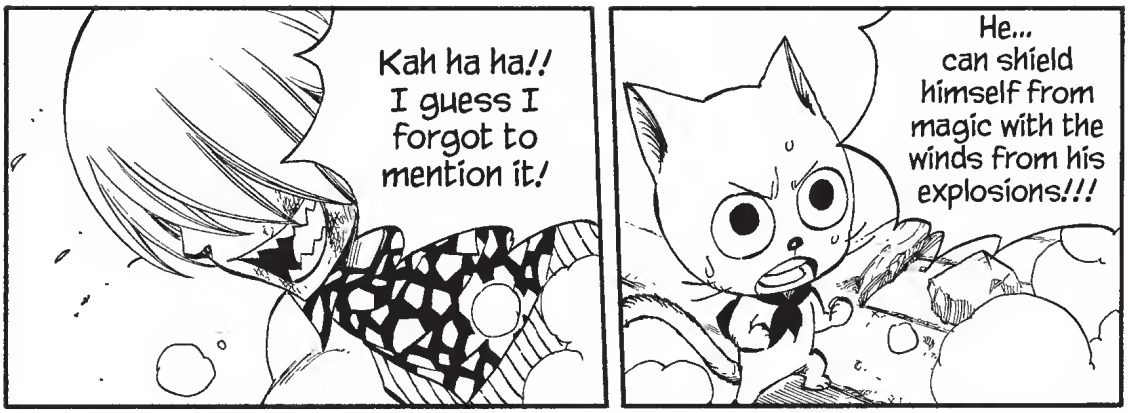
Once inside the guild, he played the part of everyone's little brother, but as he aged, he began to wonder how long he could keep that character going. Recently, he's been thinking of becoming a brainy type like Hibiki.

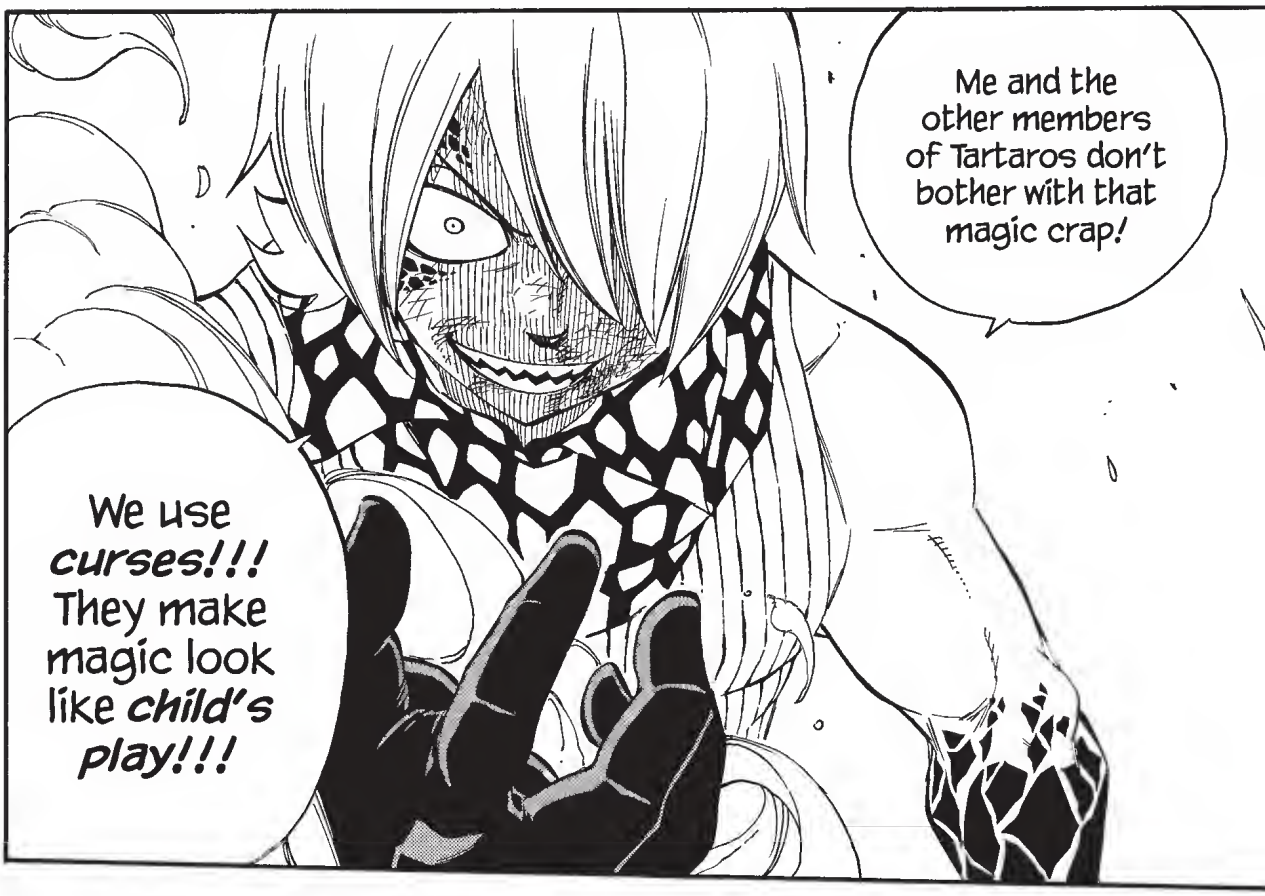
Michello-san!!!
Grandpa !!
EEEEE !!
DASSSH
EEEEE !!
DMP
You ain't gonna get away!
Wendy !!!!
Right !!!!
WHOOSH

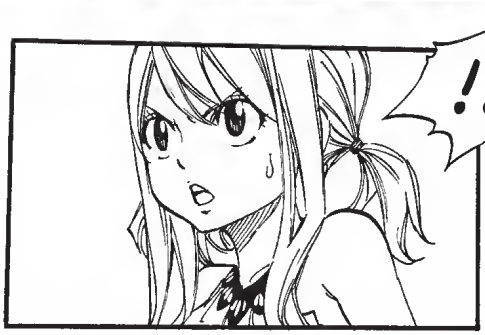
SWOOOO
TENRYÛ NO*...
Be really careful not to touch him!!!
*Sky Dragon's Roar
BWOOO

!!
!!BOMPH!!
!!
!!
WHOOSH
Open! Gate of the Scorpion Palace!!!
He countered a roar with an explosion blast?!
Yee-haw!!!!
VYAAM
SCORPIO !!!

PHOOM
DO!!!!!
SAND BUSTER !!!!
CLICK
EI
IIIYUUU
SHBOOM BOOM BOOM
BOOM
Kyaa !!
UWAAH !!

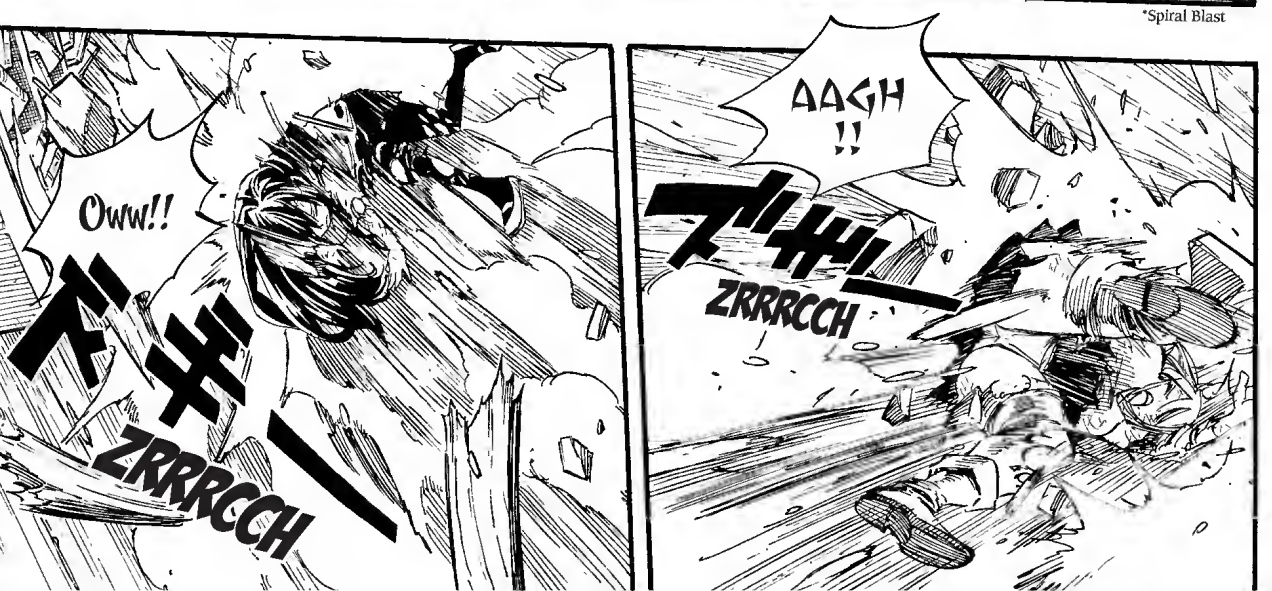

Kah ha ha!! I guess I forgot to mention it!
He... can shield himself from magic with the winds from his explosions!!!


Me and the other members of Tartaros don't bother with that magic crap!
We use *curses!!!* They make magic look like *child's play!!!*

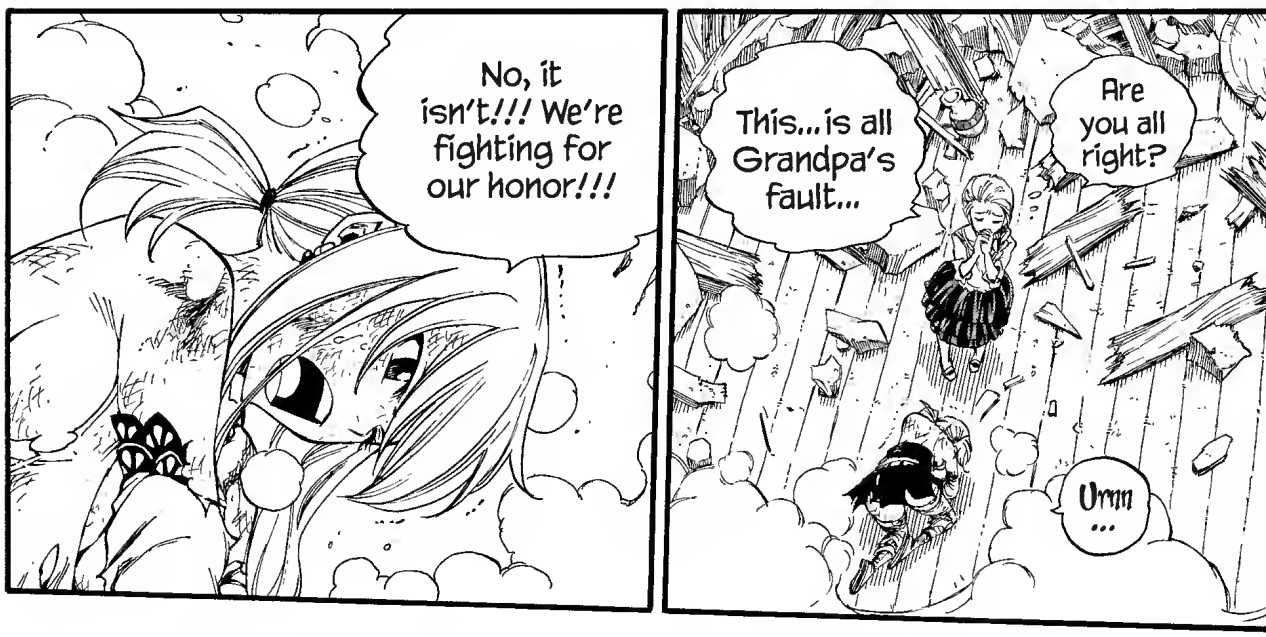

!!

No wizard can hope to compete!!
SWOOOOO

*Spiral Blast



Buh-bye!
DMP
DMP
DMP
Lucy!!! Wendy!!!


No, it isn't!!! We're fighting for our honor!!!
This...is all Grandpa's fault...
Are you all right?
Umm...

Right!!!
I'll go after that guy!!!
Wendy, see to Natsu!!!!
VOOSH
DASH

CHATTER
CHATTER
Never seen that old man before.
What's that?
He's asking for help. Maybe it has something to do with those explosions...?
He's trying to kill me!!!
EEEEE !!
EEEEE !!
Some-body save me!!!!
How's that my problem?
Somebody's trying to kill me!!!
Wh-What's with you?
Hey, you!!!! Go find me a place to hide!!!!
Now it's YOUR turn to protect me!!!!
I used to be on the Magic Council!!!! I've been protecting your lives all this time!!!!

EEEEE !!!!
Found you, old man!

SPLASH
SPLASH
All I want is to live quietly with my granddaughter!!

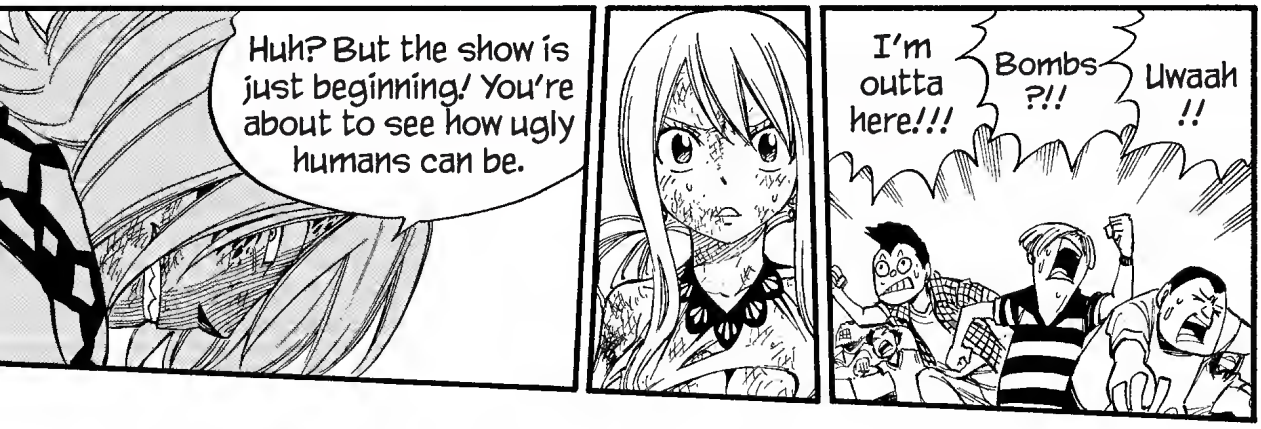
No!!! I got nothing to do with it!!
I don't know anything!!!

...
Kah ha ha!!
Would that be the granddaughter you left high and dry to save your own sorry butt?

!
Whoops! I wouldn't move if I were you.
Open...
It's a land-mine curse. The instant you move...
What is this?!!
PEEP PEEP
STPP
Boom!
SHIIING!
....
!!!

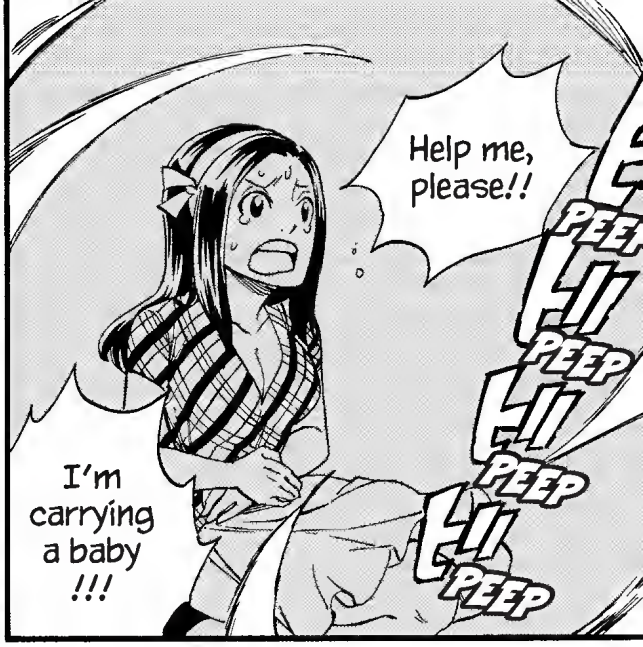
Lots of humans around.
I have an idea! This should be fun...
Remember...? Fighting in that swimsuit? ♡
Huh...? I think I've seen her somewhere...
CHATTER
CHATTER
Everybody, you're in danger!!! Get away from here!!
Some wizard fight.
What's going on?
CHATTER
CHATTER
VWOO
No!!!
Don't !!!
PEEP
VWOO
Wh- Wha...?
Eh?
SHINING
FOOM

I got two bombs.
EYAA !!
Stop it!!!

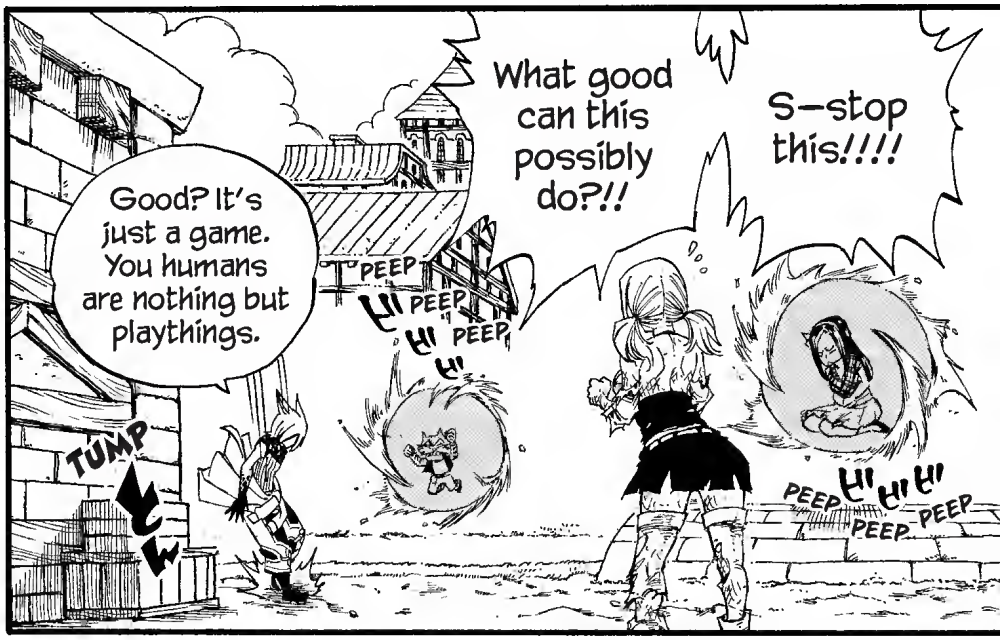

Huh? But the show is just beginning! You're about to see how ugly humans can be.
I'm outta here!!!
Bombs?!!
Uwaah !!

Huh?
You get to decide which one lives.
!
I'll only make one explode.

PEEP
You came here to protect me, didn't you?!!
So get me out of here!!!!


Help me, please!!
I'm carrying a baby !!!
PEEP

Ten seconds left. Clock's ticking.
Why can't you just fight me fair and...


Good? It's just a game. You humans are nothing but playthings.
What good can this possibly do?!!
S-stop this!!!!
PEEP
TUMP

My life is much more important !!!!
Why do you even hesitate?!!! I'm a former Magic Council member!!!!
PEEP

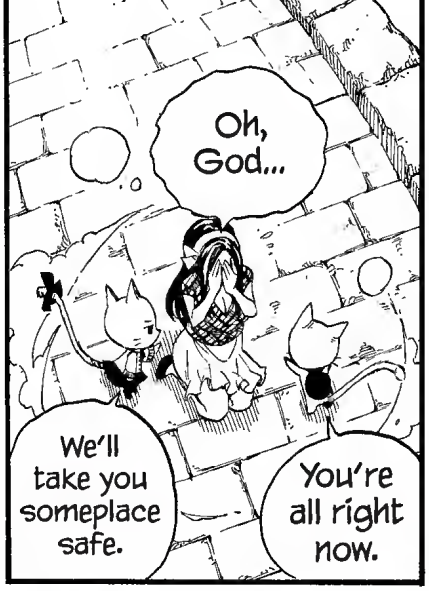
Urrnn...
Why is this happening to me?
PEEP

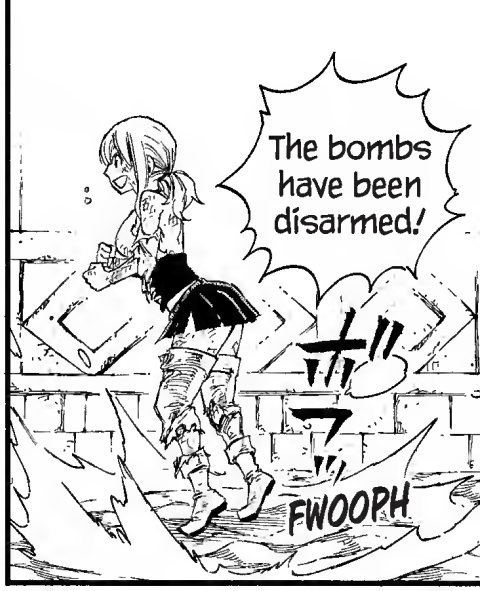
But I...

Kah ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!
Don't forget... Move, and it'll be *you* that goes boom.
And you'll make *both* of them go kaboom too.
Urk...
You have to save me!!!! *Me*!!!! Which of the two of us has done more good for the world?!!! There's no need to even think about it!!!!
PEEP
PEEP
...
PEEP
It's all right... Don't worry...
Your mommy is here for you!
PEEP
Now... Which life do you choose...
...Fairy Tail?!!!
...
Uhn...

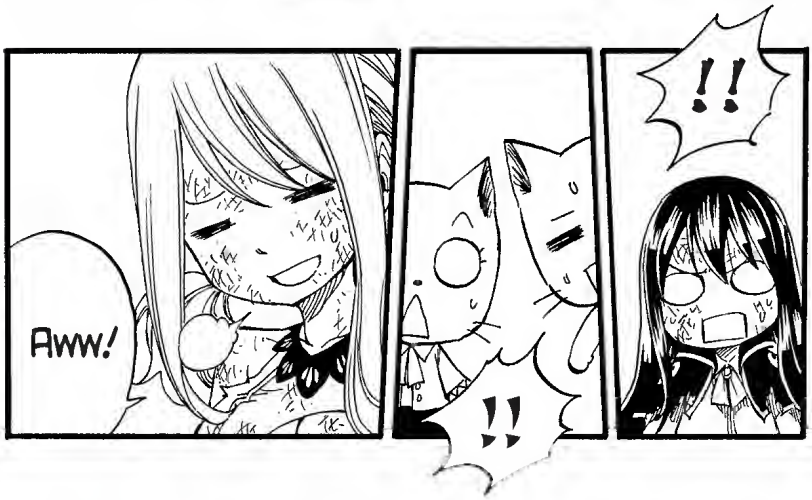
I choose to take your head !!!!
DOKOOOM
GAHHH !!
POP
Are you okay, Lucy-san?!
Natsu !!

I-I'm alive... Well done!! That was very well done!!


Oh, God...
We'll take you someplace safe.
You're all right now.

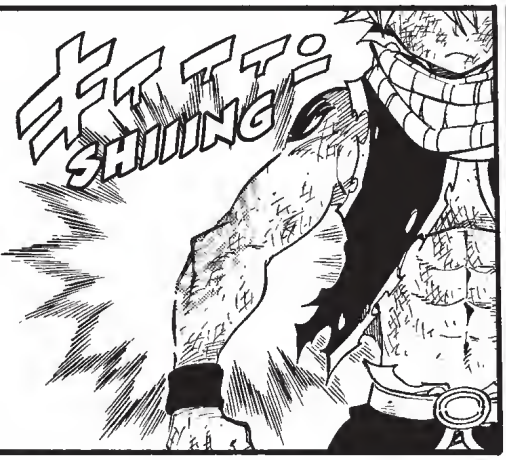

The bombs have been disarmed!
FWOOPH

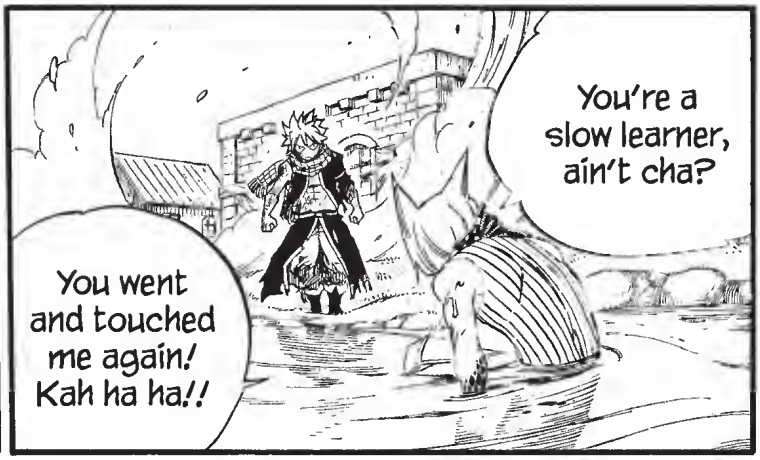
?!
WHAMM


Aww!
!!
!!

WHUD

You get on my nerves.
Take a nap!

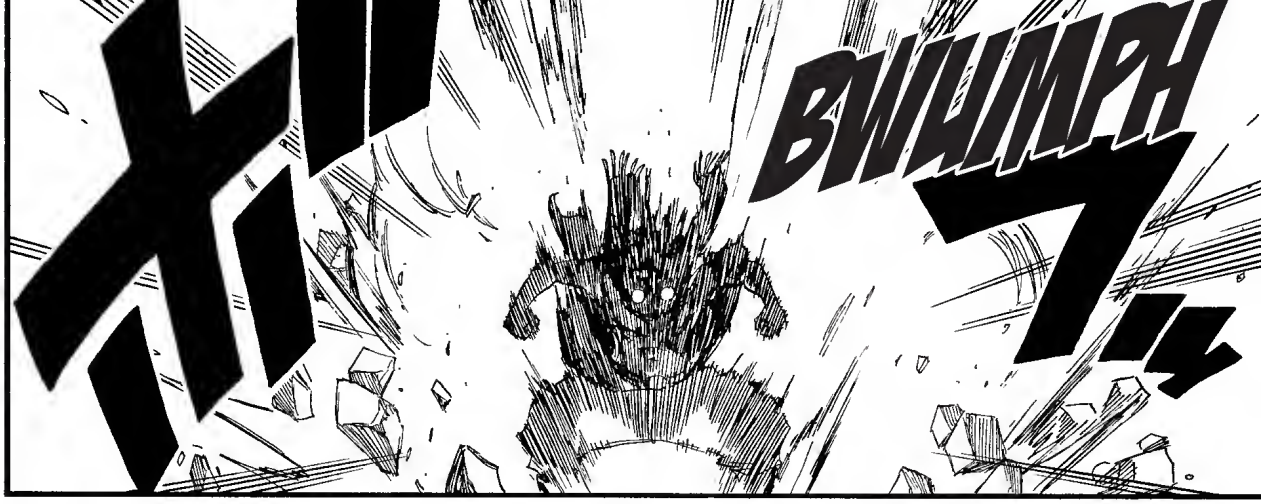

SHIIING!

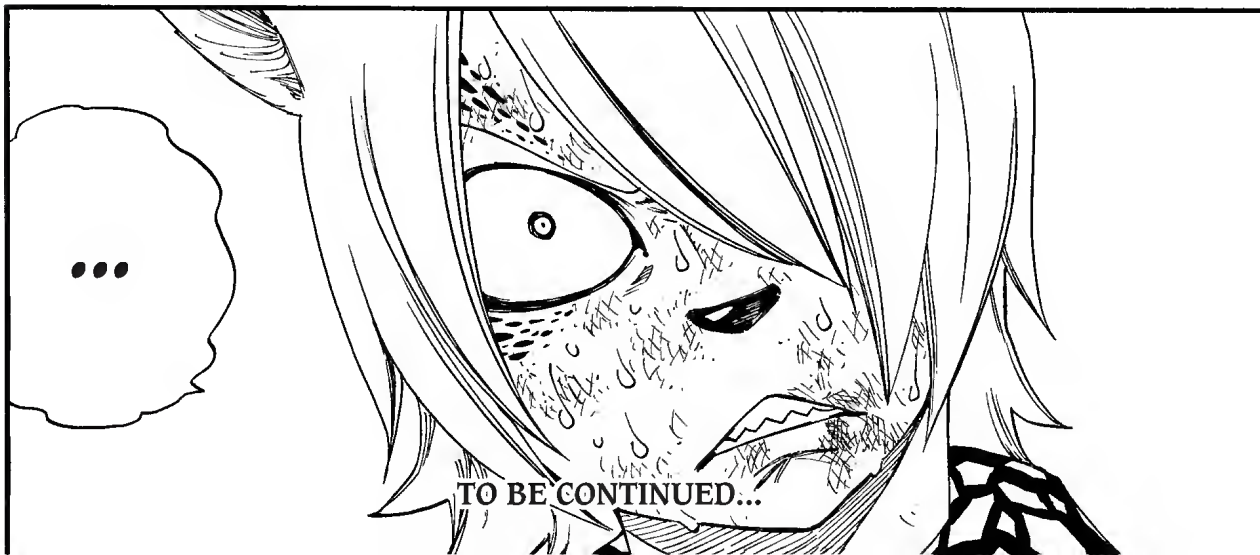

You're a slow learner, ain't cha?
You went and touched me again! Kah ha ha!!

HEH !!!!
GULP

Figured it out?

I figured that one out.
FLASH





TO BE CONTINUED...

あとがき

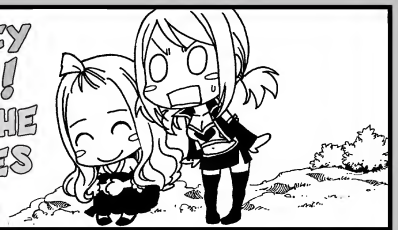
Afterword

Now we've plunged into the Tartaros arc. For this, I changed up my methods a bit and am making a 6-7 chapter short arcs. And calling each of the small sections "prologue," "part 1," "part 2," and so on. That's how I'm thinking of going. And to tell the truth, I know how many parts this is supposed to run, but I'm going to keep it a secret because it'd be really embarrassing if the schedule got off-track. (Ha ha!)

On a different subject, there are going to be a lot of new characters appearing in this arc. I don't have much time, and some of them have complicated designs, but I have to say, I'm really enjoying the character of Kyôka. In the near future, she's going to be doing a bunch of cruel things.

One of the delights of a battle manga is imagining what would happen if this villain character faced off against that character from the hero's group. The same holds true for the author, since it's really cool setting up simulations in my mind when pitting one character against another to see if it's interesting. And then there are characters who are created especially to fight a battle against a specific character. In this case, that'd have to be Silver. When that person battles the person they're set up for, you can be sure there will be a few hot plot twists. This arc will clear up a large mystery that's been running through this entire series! It'd make me really happy if you'd read it all the way to its conclusion!

EMERGENCY REQUEST! EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIES OF F.T.



At the Fairy Tail counter...

Lucy: Hey, everybody!! Hi there!!

Mira: What's that about?!

: Huh?

: You know... You're always complaining about the first thing I say, so I thought it'd be cool to reverse that.♥

Lucy: But...I didn't say anything weird.

Mira: What's that about?!

Lucy: I get the feeling this time is going to wear me out.

Mira: First question.

If Zeref can't see or hear Mavis in Vol. 40, then how can they have a conversation?

Lucy: A lot of people wrote in wondering about that.

Mira: Who's "a lot" about?!

: Sigh...

Mira: First, remember that the first master can hear Zeref's voice just fine.

Lucy: Now you're suddenly serious?!

Mira: So the problem is with Zeref, right? He isn't supposed to hear the first master's voice, but he can still carry on a conversation.

Lucy: So... telepathy or something?

: This isn't an ESP manga, dummy! (slap)

: Ow! It's a magic manga.

Mira: So since it's magic, you think you can do anything you want, dummy? (Slap!)

Lucy: Ow!!

Mira: What's, "Ow!" about? (Slap!)

: Come on, Mira-san! We aren't getting anywhere with this...

Mira: What's "Come on," about? (Slap slap!)

: Ow, ow!!

Continued on the right-hand page

Continued from the left-hand page

Mira: I think the two of them have something within them that transcends words or existence.

Lucy: I see... In other words, they can sort of communicate from consciousness to consciousness?

Mira: Lets us give it a try, huh?

: Ow!

Mira: Lucy, I sense you're in pain.

: That's because I just said, "Ow!"

Mira: Okay, next question.

Minerva wears striped panties, huh? That's cute.

Lucy: Hey, that isn't a question!!!

Mira: Mine are all lacey! ♥

: You don't have to go announcing it!!!

: And Lucy, you like to go au naturel under there, right?

: I wear underwear!!!!

What is Duun?

Lucy: How should I know?!!!

Mira: Hey, we have to answer this properly before the question corner is over!

Lucy: But there's no meaning to "Duun!" I mean, it's just, "Duun!"

Mira: Perhaps not. But even if, "Duun," has no meaning, "Superduun," has a meaning, right?

: Huh?

: Superduun is at least twice what Duun is.

Lucy: ...

Mira: It's a very super "duun."

Lucy: Um...

Mira: If I say it this way, it has a lot of meaning:

SUPERBEEN!

: WHERE DID DUUN GO?!!!

Mira: I think that wraps things up with a duun!

Lucy: And in the end, ***I'm*** still the one complaining about what you say.

: Yeah. What's that about?

Lucy: Okay... Now I'm exhausted...

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a postcard or at postcard size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

Who done it?!! I think the glancing Happy is really cute!

Hyogo Prefecture, Yui Kosa

Yamanashi Prefecture, Yuki

Shizuoka Prefecture, Hyōsuke Ando

▲Gajeel as the Iron-Shadow Dragon version! He looks tough!

All the dragon slayers unite!! I wonder if they're going to be able to fight dragons again!?

▲Ah ha ha! Why are they combined in this way?! It says Natsu Perfume...

Hyogo Prefecture, Kanon Yagi

Shizuoka Prefecture, Chisato Shimoyama

▲ A combination of a former rich girl and a present princess. I wanted to draw more interaction between them.

Saitama Prefecture, Nanami Shimada

▲Ohh! The two as kids! Now that's a cute image!

By sending in letters or postcards, you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code, and any other information you include to the artist as-is. Please keep that in mind.

Tokyo, Tomoka Sato

▲Wow! You drew this really cute! Her outfit can only be found in a special version calendar making it a rare Juvia!

Chiba Prefecture, Okumura

▲ What a great picture! It has this ethereal quality! Mira-chan is going to have a great part in this arc!

Kanagawa Prefecture, Kumi Ebizuka

▲ The new series is about to start! Watch for it!!

Miyagi Prefecture, Sari

▲I heard a lot of people say how much they love these two. Happiness binge!

Kagawa Prefecture, Sumiko

▲ Lucy in a sailor uniform! This is cute! Is she leaving Happy behind?

Tokyo, Yocchi

▲I'm sure Wendy will have a big part too! Be sure to watch for it, okay?

Aichi Prefecture, 3A is the Best

▲ The nine gates came really quickly! But we're missing two here...

Tokyo, Misa Matsuo

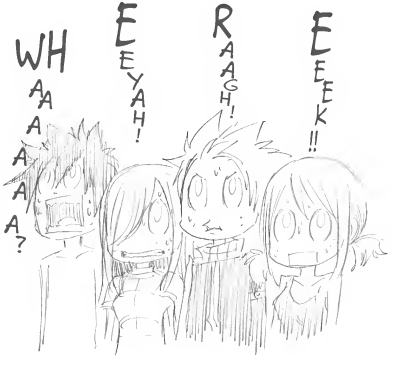
▲ Minerva has been rocketing up in popularity recently. I really like her too.

Ah...
You shall give this one more sport, hm?
Plots, betrayals, torture...
The deeds of demons that will send unstoppable tingles down your spine!
Don't go saying a filthy name like that.
And the beginning of the countdown to Fairy Tail's destruction!!
Finding their hideout and facing his greatest peril...
...Natsu, fiery with rage, punches his way into the enemy base!!
NEXT TIME
In the demon stories...
...the word "mercy" is nowhere to be found.
Tartaros throws a terror party!
The fairies will be destroyed from within.
They send fatal plots against the fairies!
FAIRY TAIL
フェアリーテイル
43
Coming Soon!

FAIRY TAIL 42

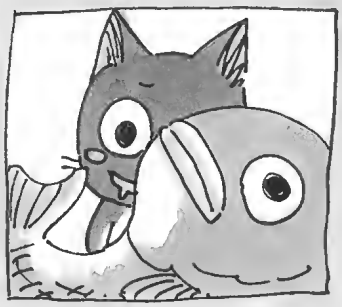
フェアリーテイル

FAIRY TAIL 42



KIRA 真島ヒロ HAJIMA

FROM HIRO MASHIMA



The new TV anime series is just starting! It's been so long since I last saw everybody from the cast and staff, when I finally did see them, I was as happy as if I had just met up with everyone from my guild again! There will be little details where the new series will be a power-up of the old, so watch it! I'm sure you'll really enjoy it!

Original Jacket Design: Hisao Ogawa

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 20, Kyôka

Like Natsu (meaning "summer"), Kyôka is obviously a Japanese word, but unlike Natsu, Kyôka isn't one that is normally accepted as a Japanese name. So odds are her name is based on the meaning of a Japanese word pronounced *kyôka*. We can go over some of the words it probably isn't, like a bridge girder, a satirical poem or an offering of flowers, but one translation stands out as a probability. When she is first introduced, she describes her powers as making humans stronger, so we can assume the meaning of her name is the Japanese word *kyôka* which means to "enhance" or "strengthen." Another outside possibility is to "instruct" or "enlighten," but I would think "enhancing" is closer to her position (so far) in the story. Of course later events could prove me wrong.

Page 14, Women's bath

You may have heard that Japanese bathe in mixed company. It's true that there are mixed baths scattered here and there throughout the country, but they are rare. More common, even for small hot springs, is to section off women's baths from men's.

Page 79, Dôjigiri

One of the most famous swords in Japan was said to have been made by the great sword maker Amakuni Yasutsuna in the Heian period (794-1185) of Japan's history. It got its name because of a legend where it was used to cut off the head of an *oni* (Japanese ogre) leader, Shuten Dôji, so its name translates to "Dôji cutter." The blade still exists and was displayed last year at the Tokyo National Museum. It is said that although it is more than 900 years old, the blade is as clear as the day it was made.

Page 104, *Agito*

Agito means "jaw," but it is considered a far cooler way of saying it than the more common word, *ago*. In fact, the word is consider cool enough to have a Kamen Rider series named after it in the early 2000s. Other anime and game characters have also been named Agito.

Page 145, *Tsundere*

As mentioned in the notes for Volume 16, *tsundere* is a word for characters who pretend to be annoyed and unfeeling toward another character whereas they are actually madly in love. The word comes from two onomatopoetic words, *tsun tsun*, the sound of poking someone, and *dere dere*, the sound of cuddling. The two together refer to a type of personality that is angry and prickly at one moment, and loving the next. It's mostly used for female characters, although, as Ren demonstrates, there can be male *tsundere* characters, too.

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—A Case Suitable for Treatment

"It will be impossible to stop watching this story unfold." —Japan Media Arts Awards jury

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DEDUCTIVE DOG DETECTIVE

When Takeru adopts a new pet, he's in for a surprise—the dog is none other than the reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes. With no one else able to communicate with Holmes, Takeru is roped into becoming Sherdog's assistant, John Watson. Using his sleuthing skills, Holmes uncovers clues to solve the trickiest crimes.

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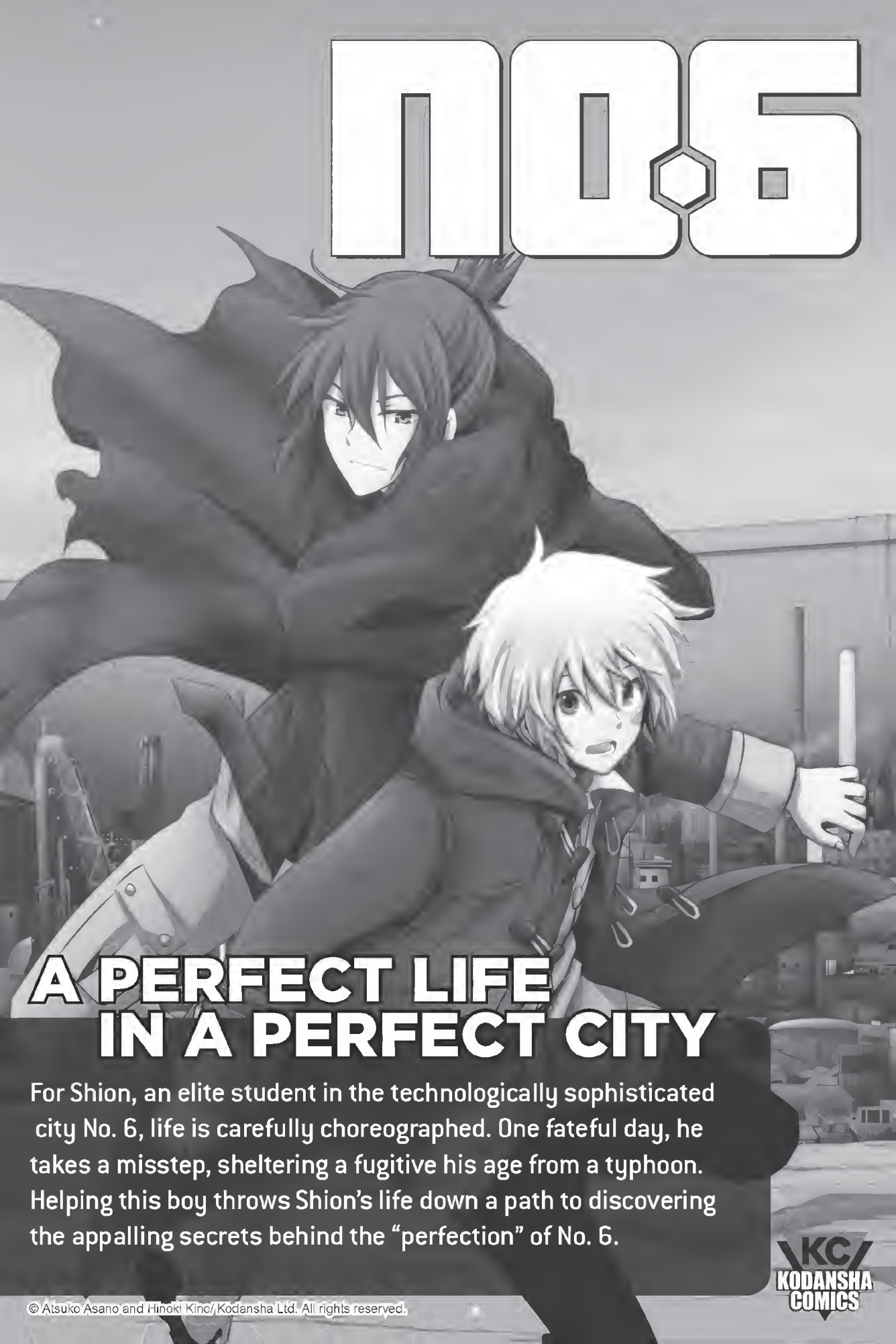

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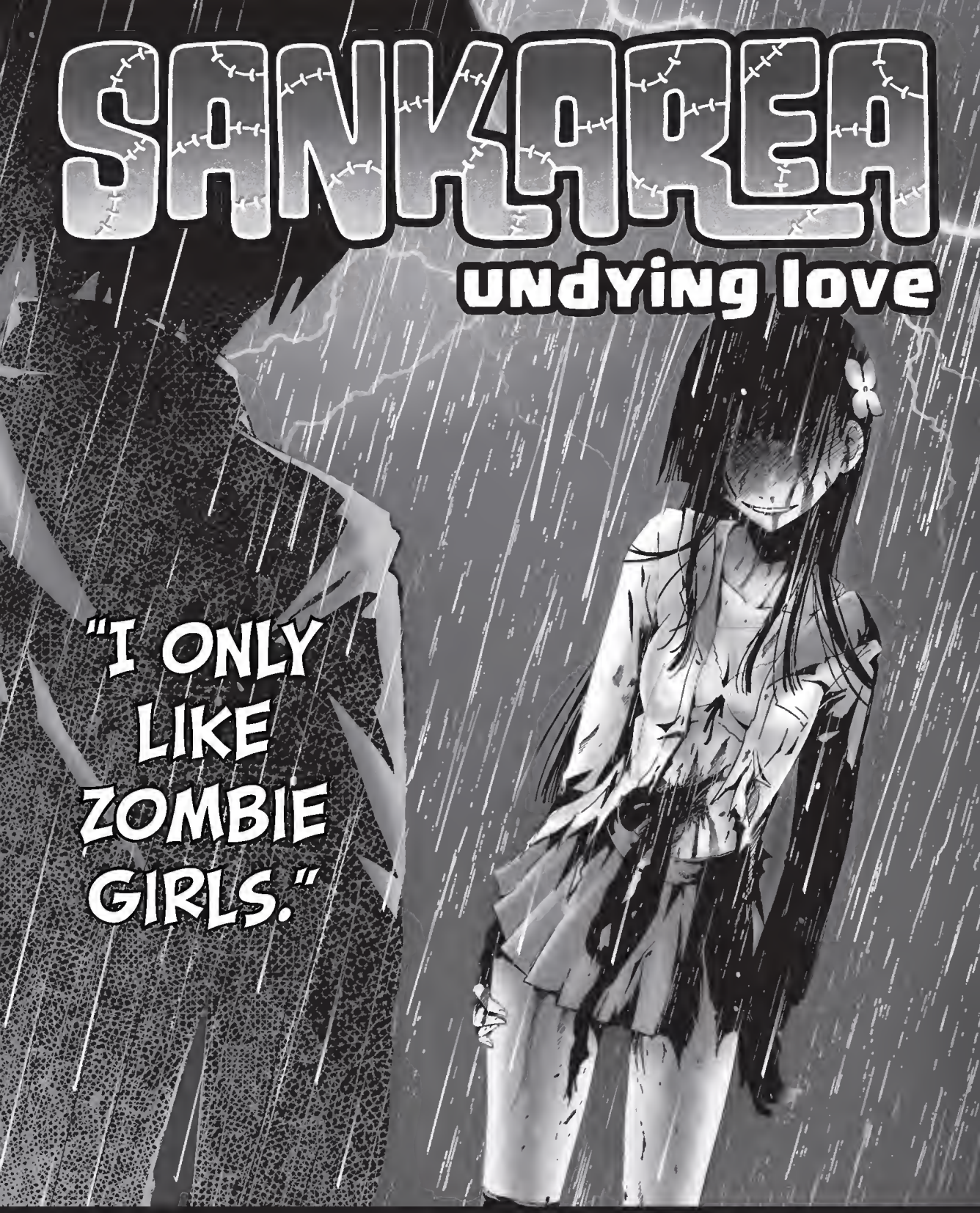

Chihiro has an unusual connection to zombie movies. He doesn't feel bad for the survivors – he wants to comfort the undead girls they slaughter! When his pet passes away, he brews a resurrection potion. He's discovered by local heiress Sanka Rea, and she serves as his first test subject!

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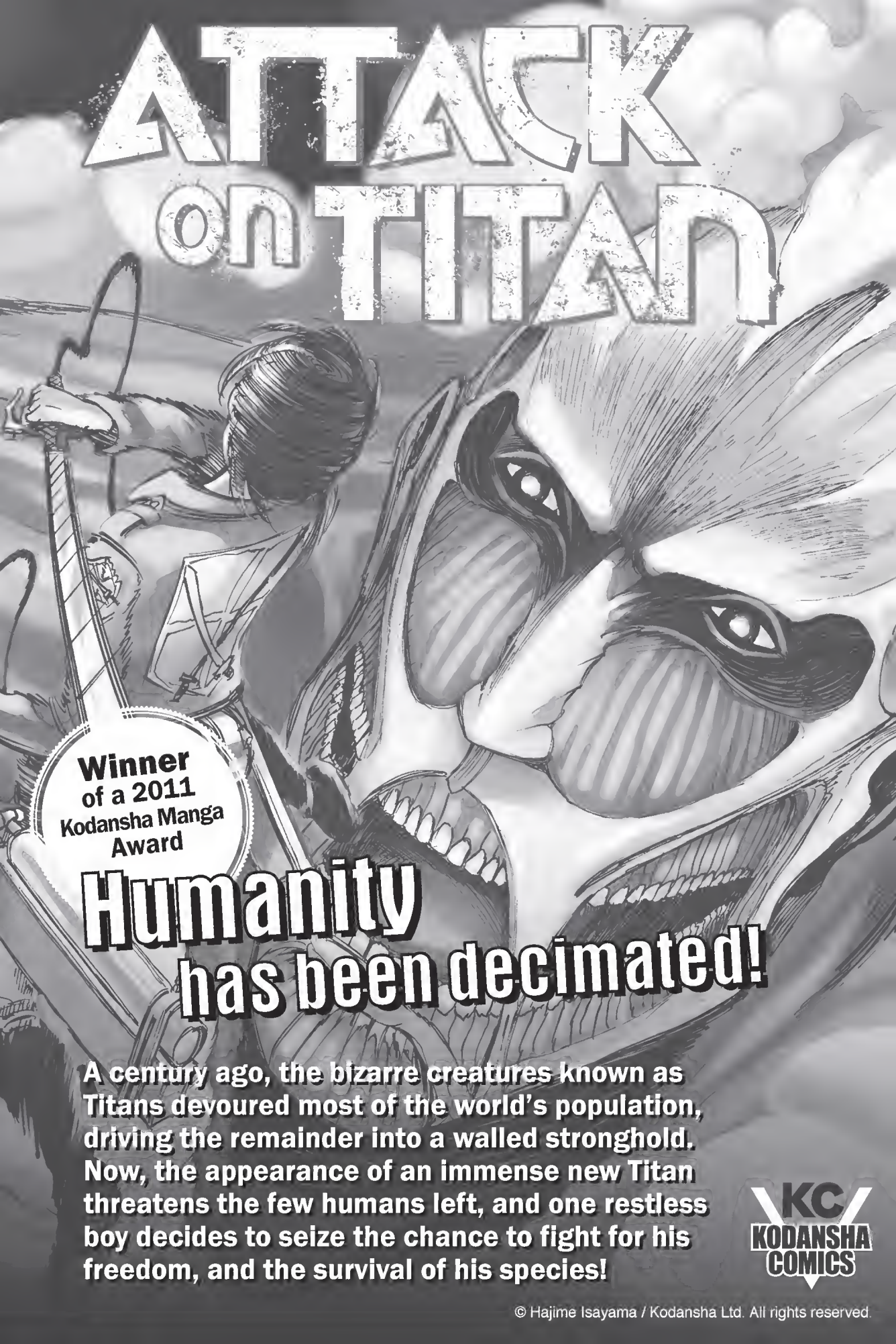

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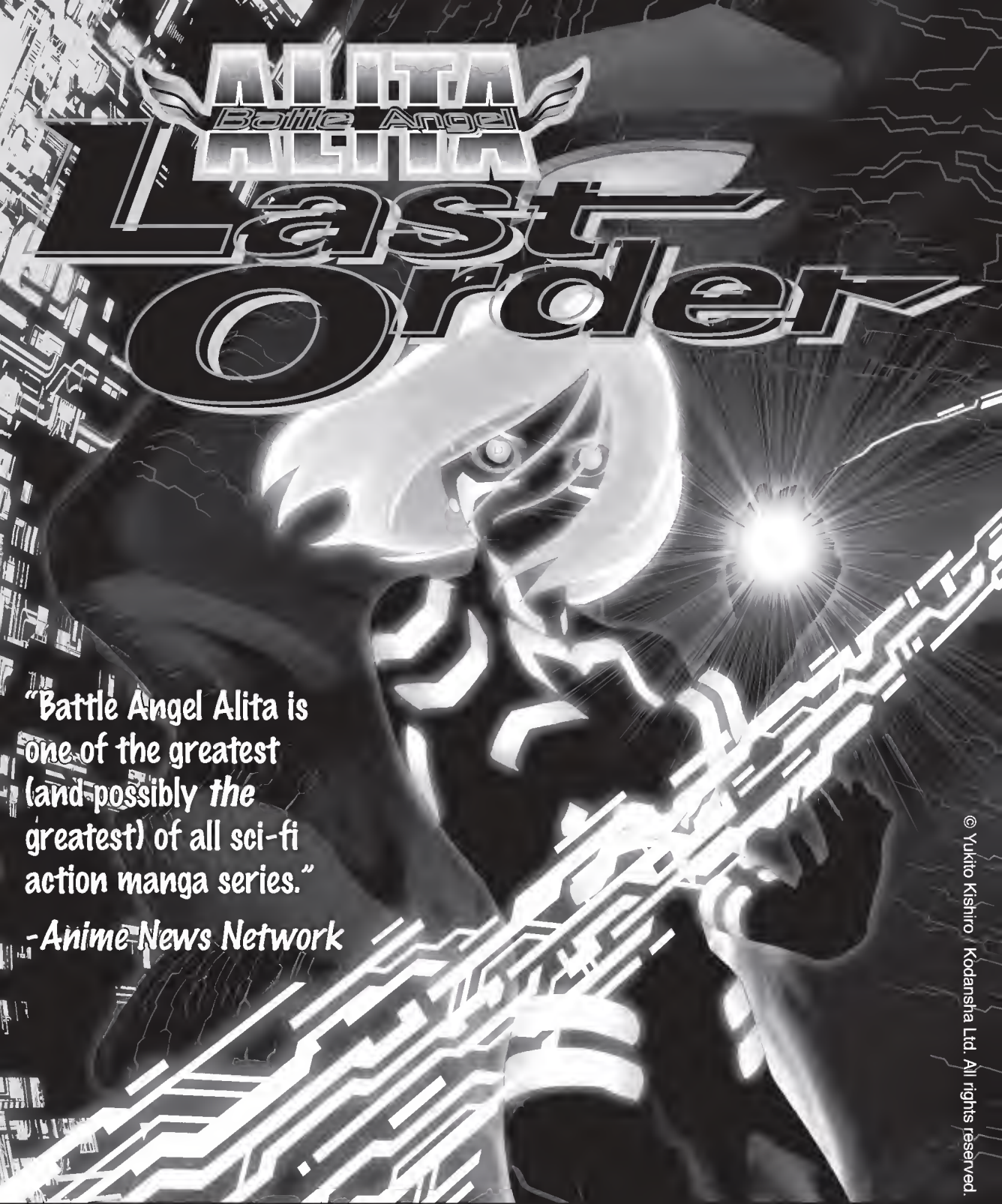

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-Anime News Network

My Little Monster

OPPOSITES ATTRACT...MAYBE?

Haru Yoshida is feared as an unstable and violent "monster." Mizutani Shizuku is a grade-obsessed student with no friends. Fate brings these two together to form the most unlikely pair. Haru firmly believes he's in love with Mizutani and she firmly believes he's insane.

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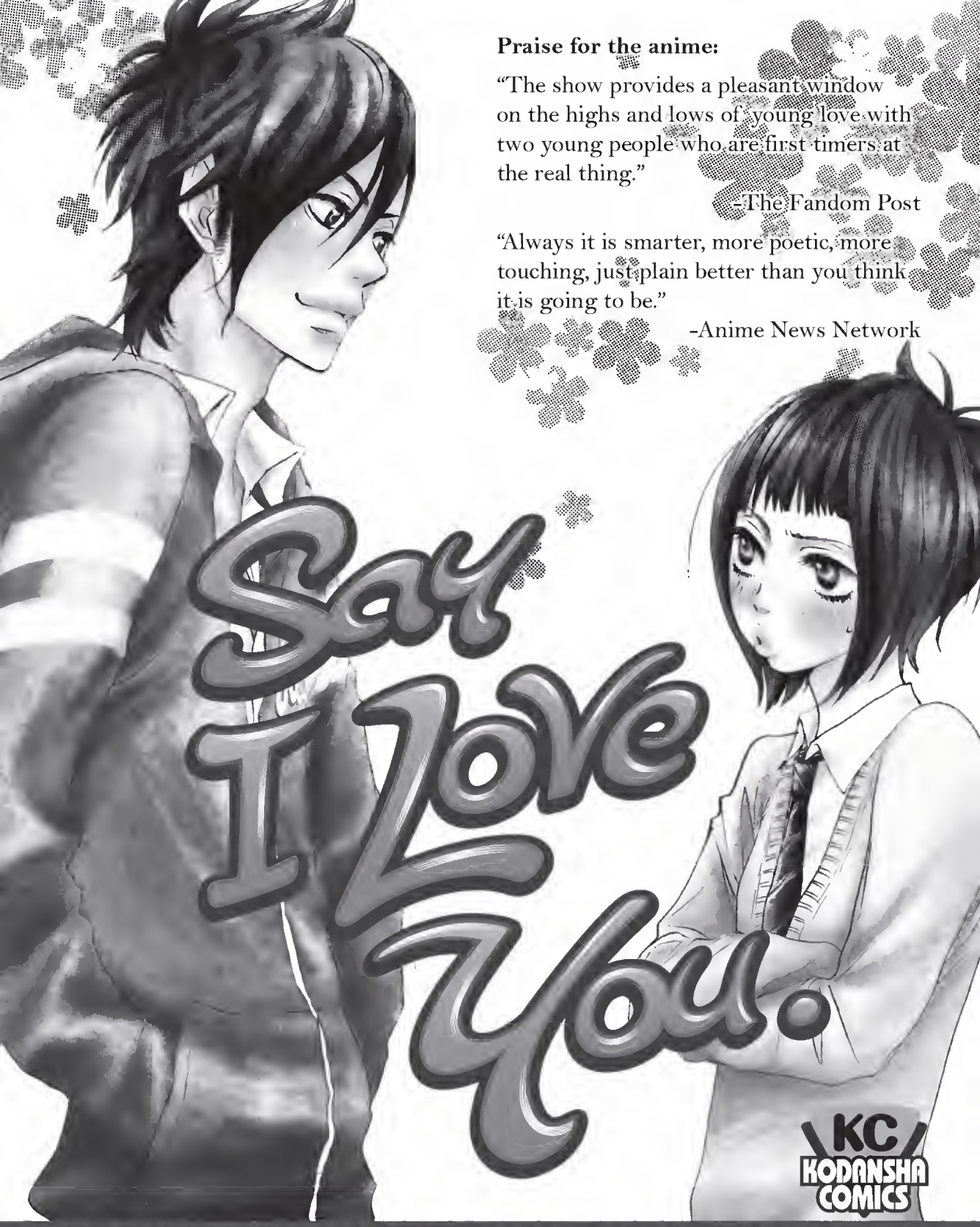
-The Fandom Post

"Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be."

-Anime News Network



Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn't need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn't angry in the slightest—in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei's trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, "I love you"?

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